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#5

ROCKET RACCOON®

ROSENBERG
COELHO
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DNA 12.16

THE ONLY ONE OF HIS KIND, ROCKET IS MANY THINGS: A PILOT, AN EXPERT THIEF, A WEAPONS ENTHUSIAST, A TACTICAL GENIUS, A HERO WHO CHOSE TO USE HIS SKILLS FOR GOOD AS A GUARDIAN OF THE GALAXY. HE'S NOT A RACCOON, THOUGH.

ROCKET RACCOON

EARTH IS STUPID IN THE BEST CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT ROCKET'S TRAPPED HERE ALONE (BECAUSE THE GUARDIANS ARE FIGHTING), AND HE'S BEEN CHASED ALL OVER MANHATTAN BY KRAVEN THE HUNTER—THE MOST SKILLED OF AN ORGANIZED GROUP OF ALIEN-HUNTERS. KRAVEN'S TRIED TO MURDER ROCKET FOR HOURS, BUT S.H.I.E.L.D. ONLY SHOWED UP WHEN ROCKET ACCIDENTALLY TOPPLED ONE MEASLY STATUE WHILE DEFENDING HIMSELF. THEY ARRESTED ROCKET AND BROUGHT HIM TO AN ALIEN DETENTION CENTER, WHERE HE WAS REUNITED WITH JACK BEAGLE, ANOTHER ALIEN BEING HUNTED, AND INTRODUCED TO SYCORAX, AN INHUMAN WHO CAN CREATE INTERPLANETARY GATEWAYS WITH HER GEAR THAT HAPPENS TO BE STORED WITH RA'CHAUN—ROCKET'S OLD FRIEND WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HELP HIM GET OFF OF THIS FLARKING PLANET. TIME FOR A BREAKOUT!

* THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE THE EVENTS OF **STAR-LORD #6** AND **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #19**

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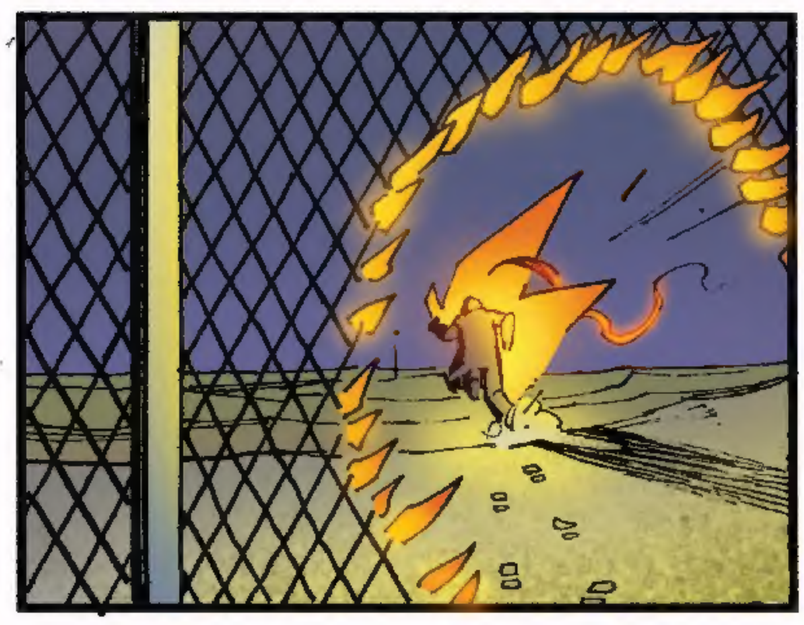
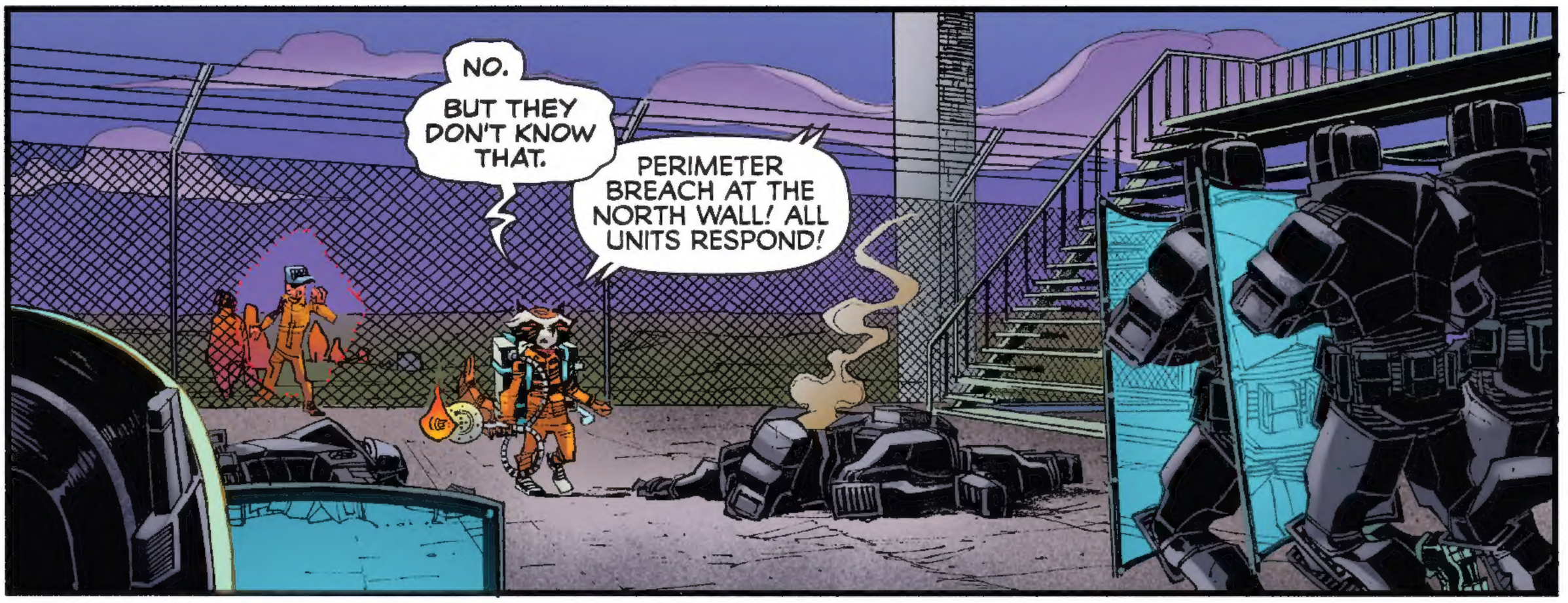
WHO WANTS TO GET COOKED?

I LIKE MY STEAKS WELL-DONE.

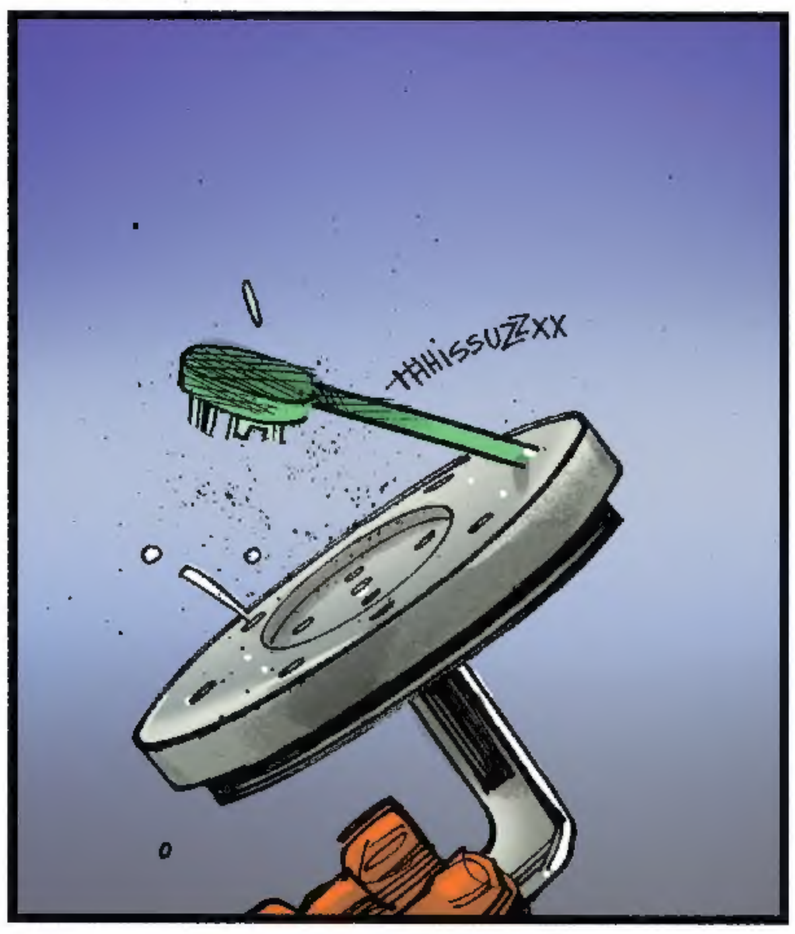
THAT'S A THING HUMANS SAY, RIGHT?



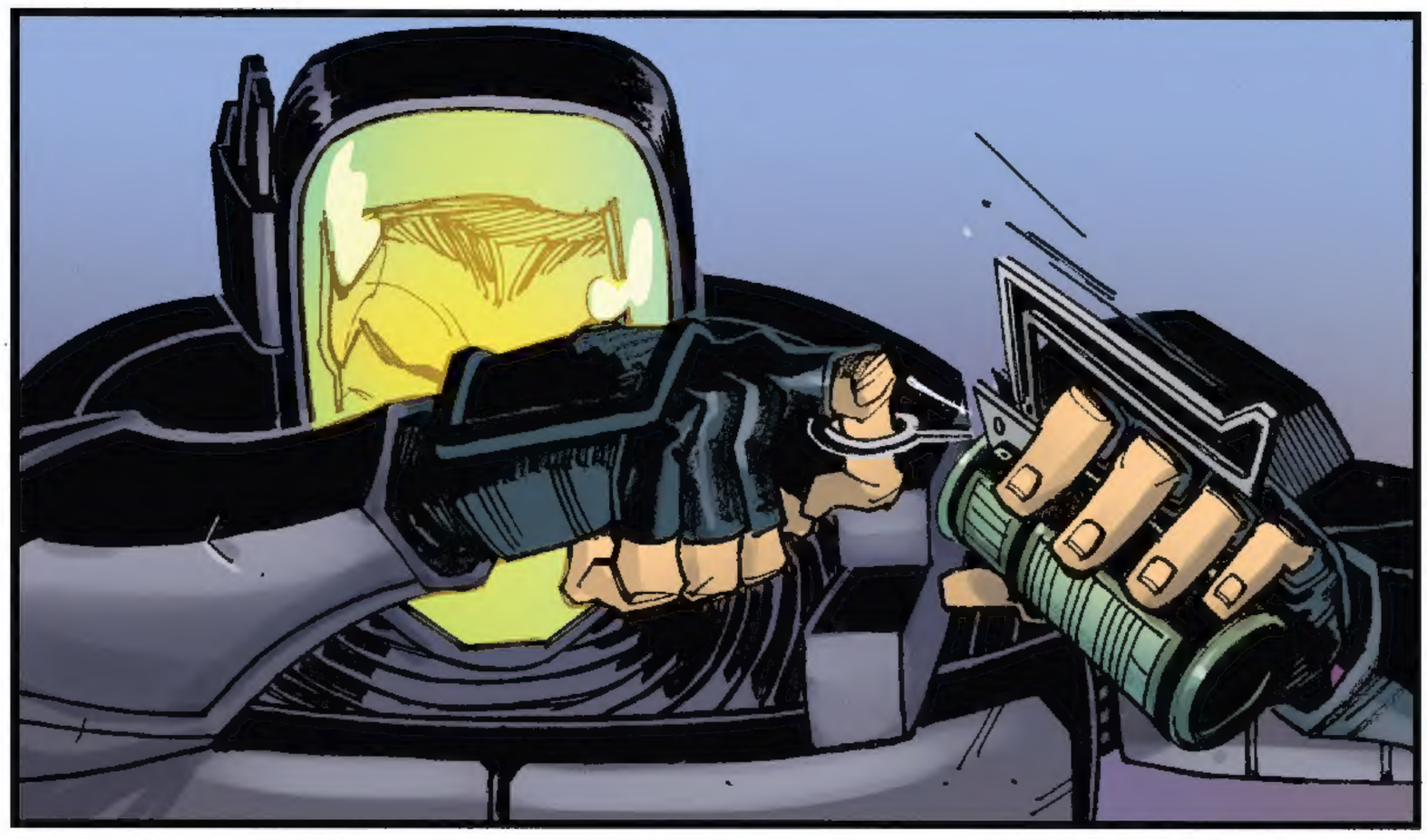

NO.
BUT THEY DON'T KNOW THAT.
PERIMETER BREACH AT THE NORTH WALL! ALL UNITS RESPOND!

YOU'RE TRAPPED IN HERE, HEDGEHOG.
YOU FLARKERS DON'T GET IT. THE HEDGEHOG ISN'T TRAPPED IN HERE WITH YOU...

...YOU'RE TRAPPED IN HERE WITH THE HEDGE-HOG!

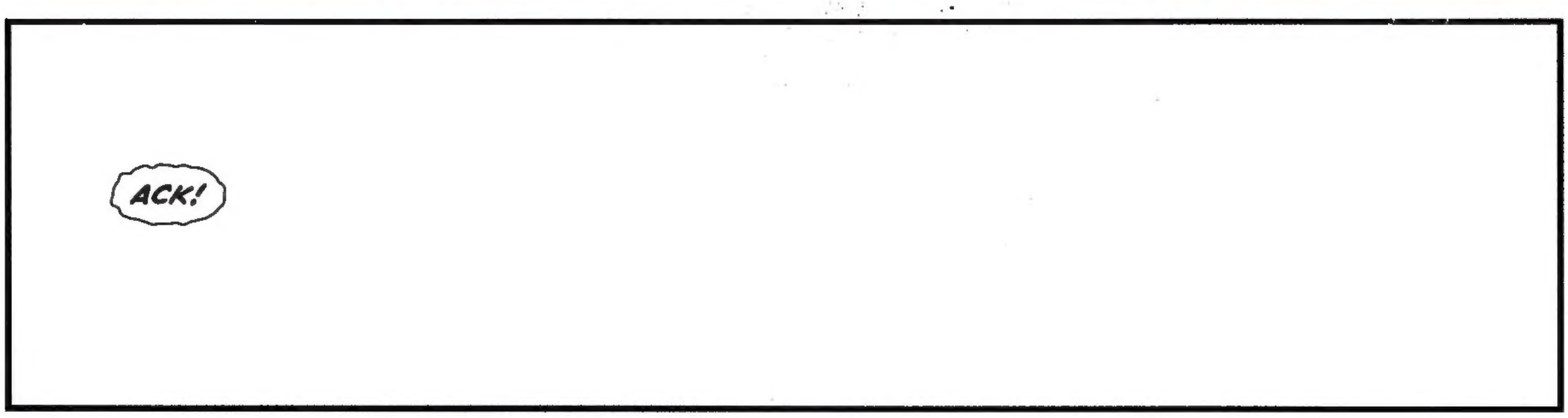

THHISSUZZXX

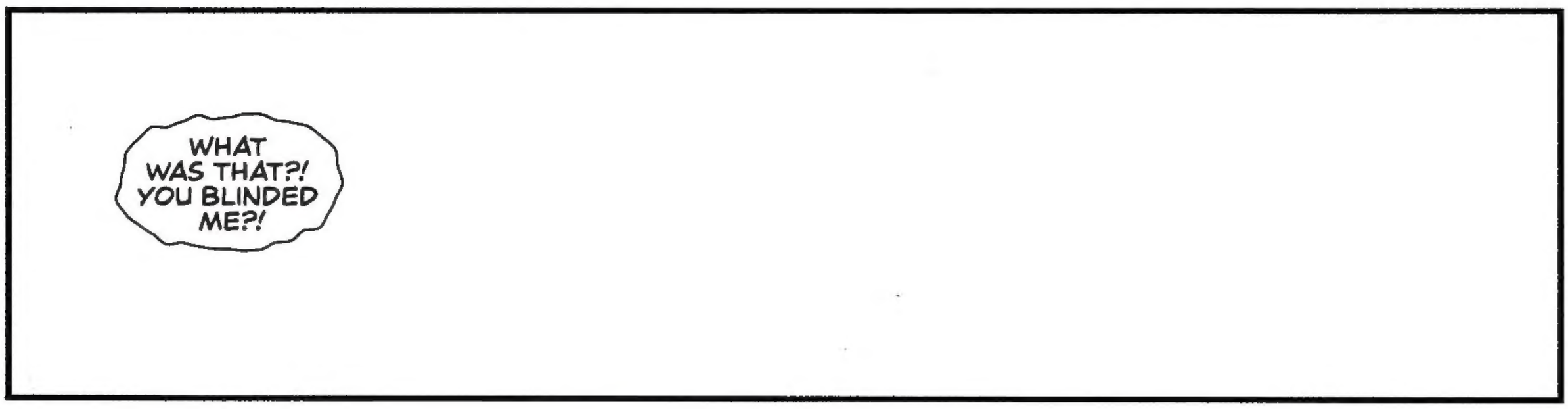
ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT ALL THIS.

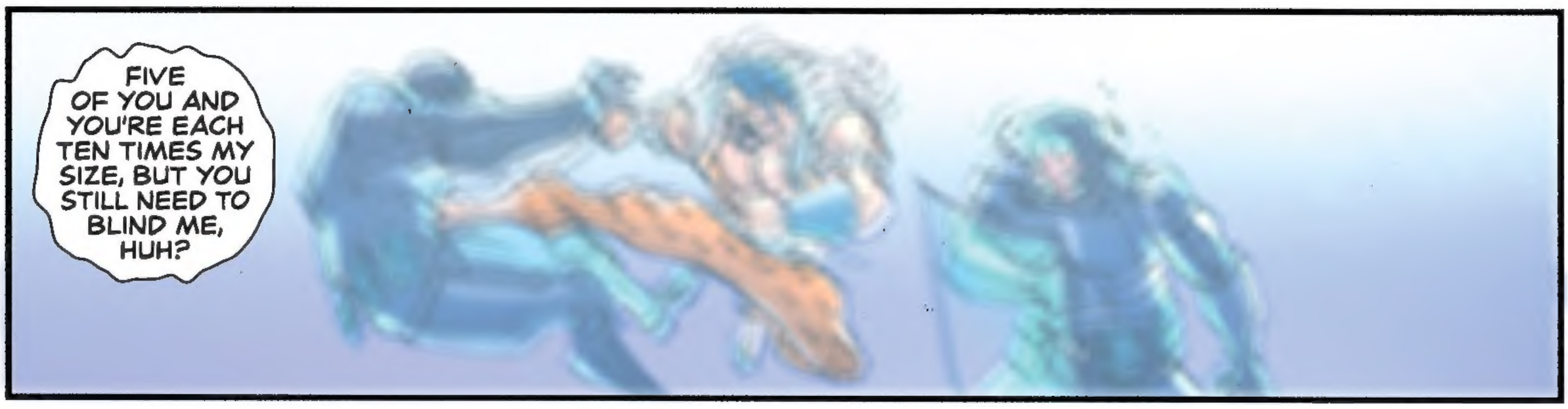


I'LL TAKE THAT AS A NO.
HSSSSSS

BAAANNNG!


ACK!

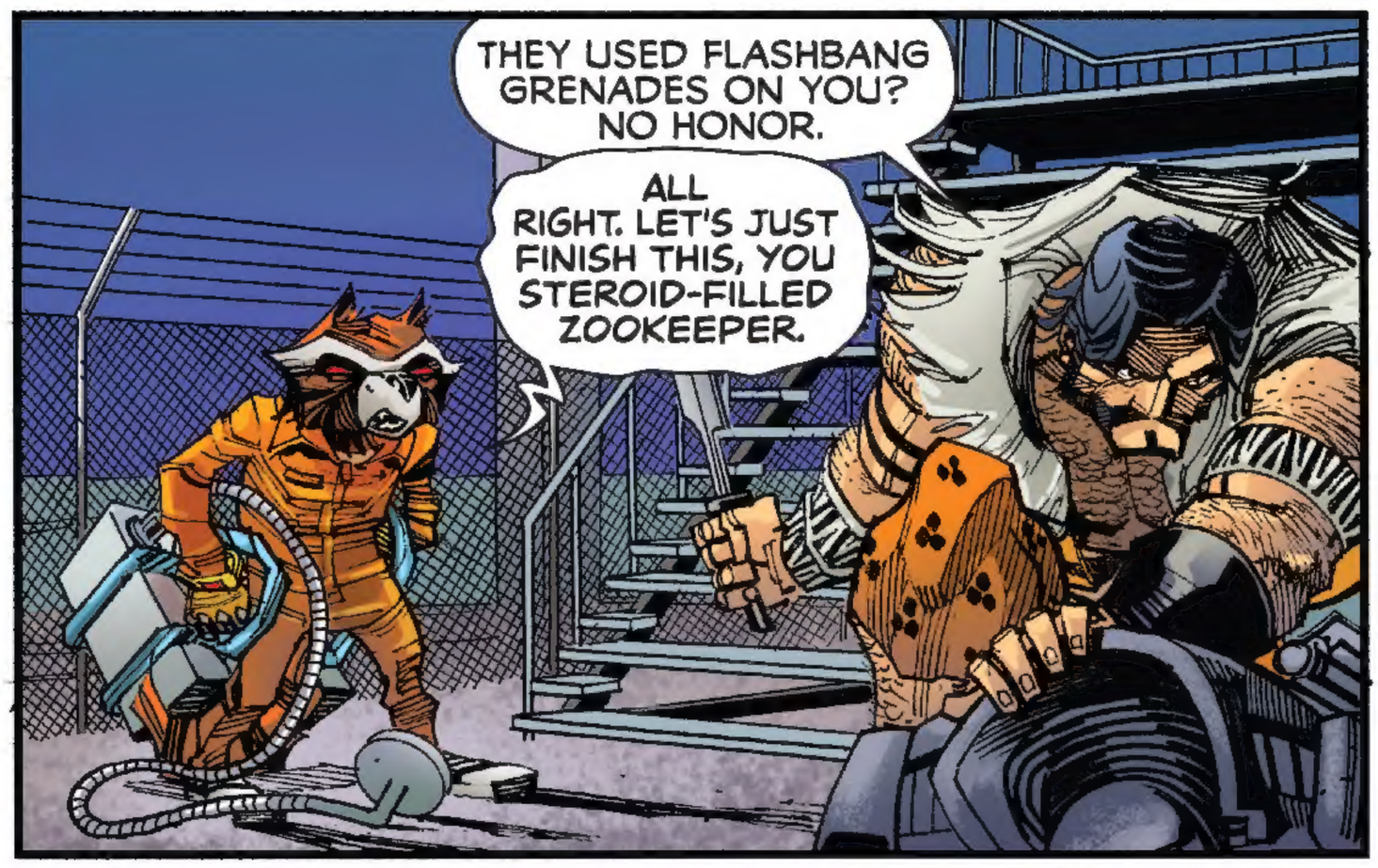

WHAT WAS THAT?! YOU BLINDED ME?!


FIVE OF YOU AND YOU'RE EACH TEN TIMES MY SIZE, BUT YOU STILL NEED TO BLIND ME, HUH?

DOESN'T MATTER. I'LL STILL KICK YOUR--

AHH, C'MON MAN. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HELLO, RACCOON. I'M HERE TO *RESCUE* YOU.

HOW'D YOU EVEN FIND ME?
I TRACKED YOU. THAT'S WHAT I DO.
THAT'S LIKE A NON-ANSWER.


THEY USED FLASHBANG GRENADES ON YOU? NO HONOR.
ALL RIGHT. LET'S JUST FINISH THIS, YOU STEROID-FILLED ZOOKEEPER.

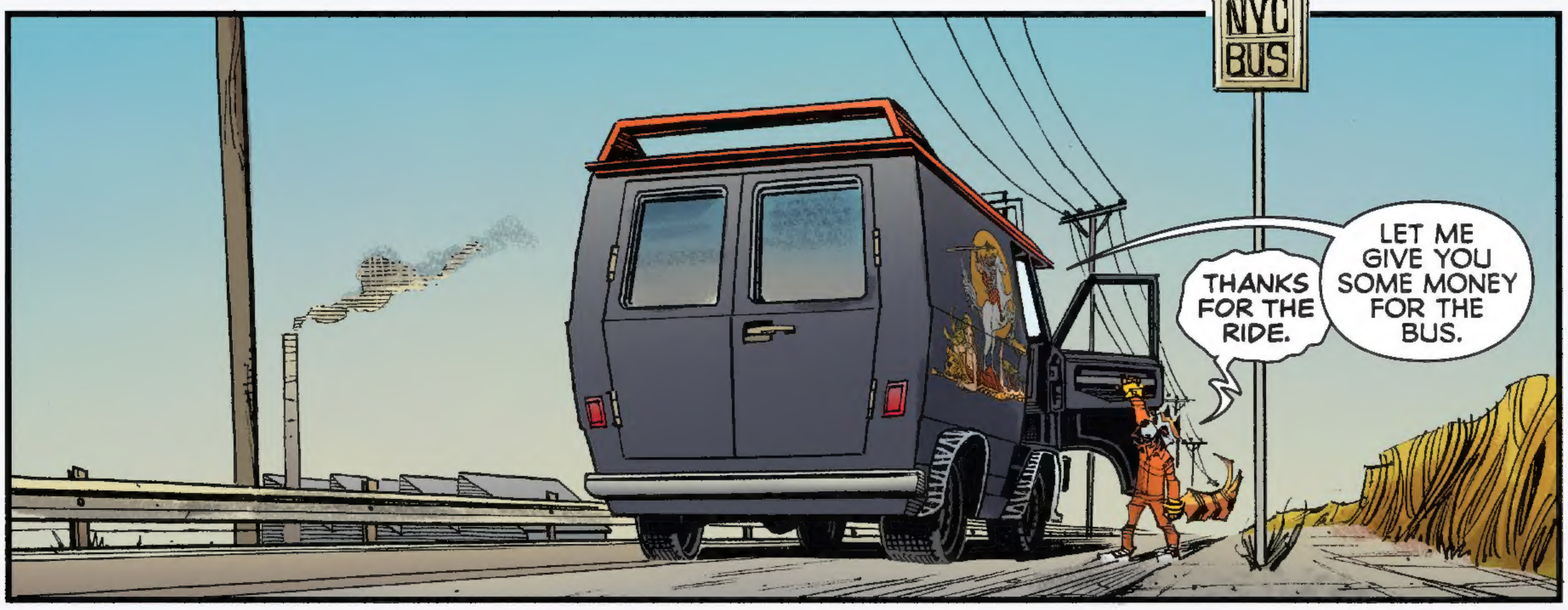
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING, RACCOON. I CAME TO GET YOU *OUT*.
COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT A LIFT.

WHY?
THE CLOSEST BUS STOP IS A MILE FROM HERE AND YOU HAVE SMALL LEGS.
NO. WHY RESCUE ME?

YOU ARE A GREAT FIGHTER. IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY TO HAVE SUCH AN AWESOME WARRIOR ROTTING IN A CAGE.
OH. THANKS, MAN.
AND YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL PELT.

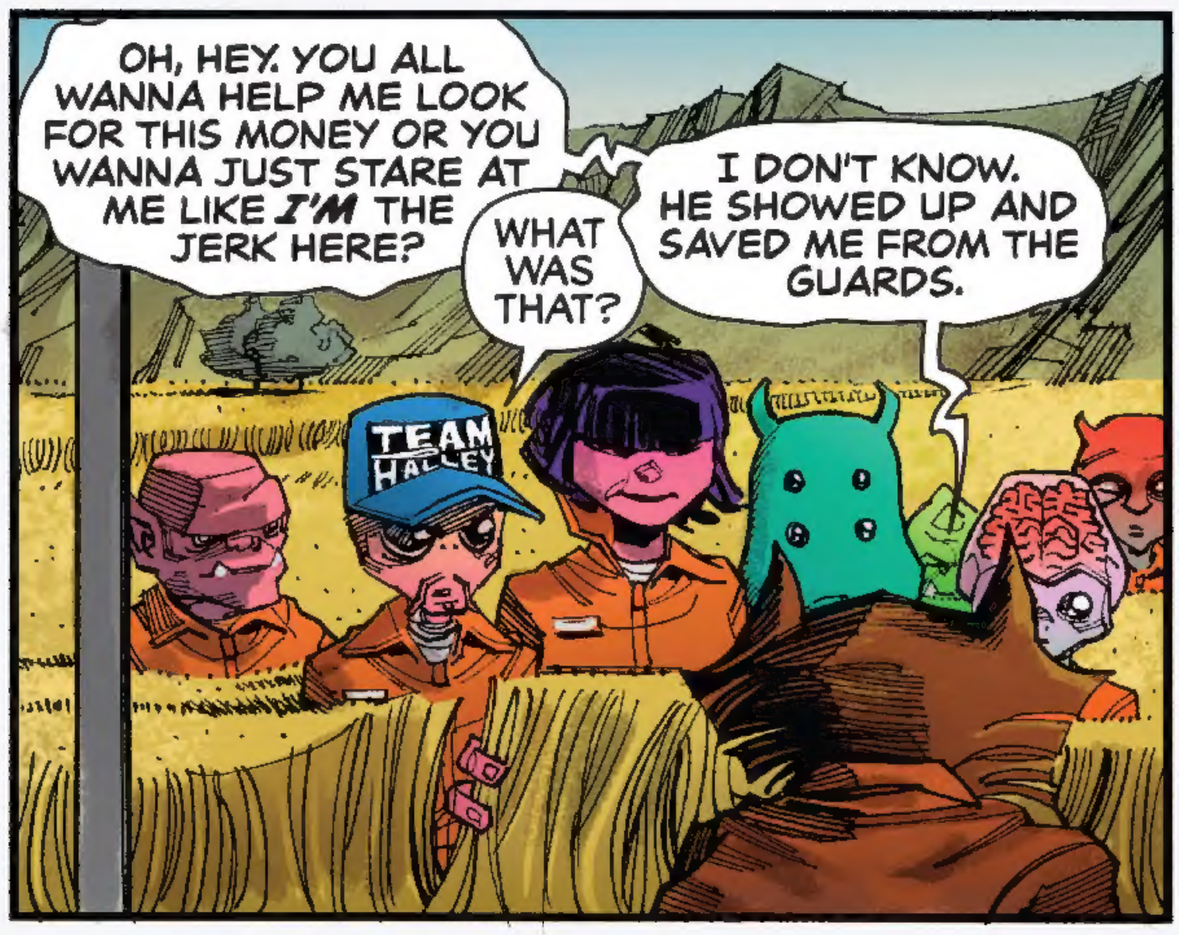
DIDN'T I CRASH THIS?
I HAVE A FEW OF THEM. I MAKE A GOOD AMOUNT OF MONEY.
BOOP BOOP
NEW YORK
KRV-17

HOW?


NYC BUS
THANKS FOR THE RIDE.
LET ME GIVE YOU SOME MONEY FOR THE BUS.

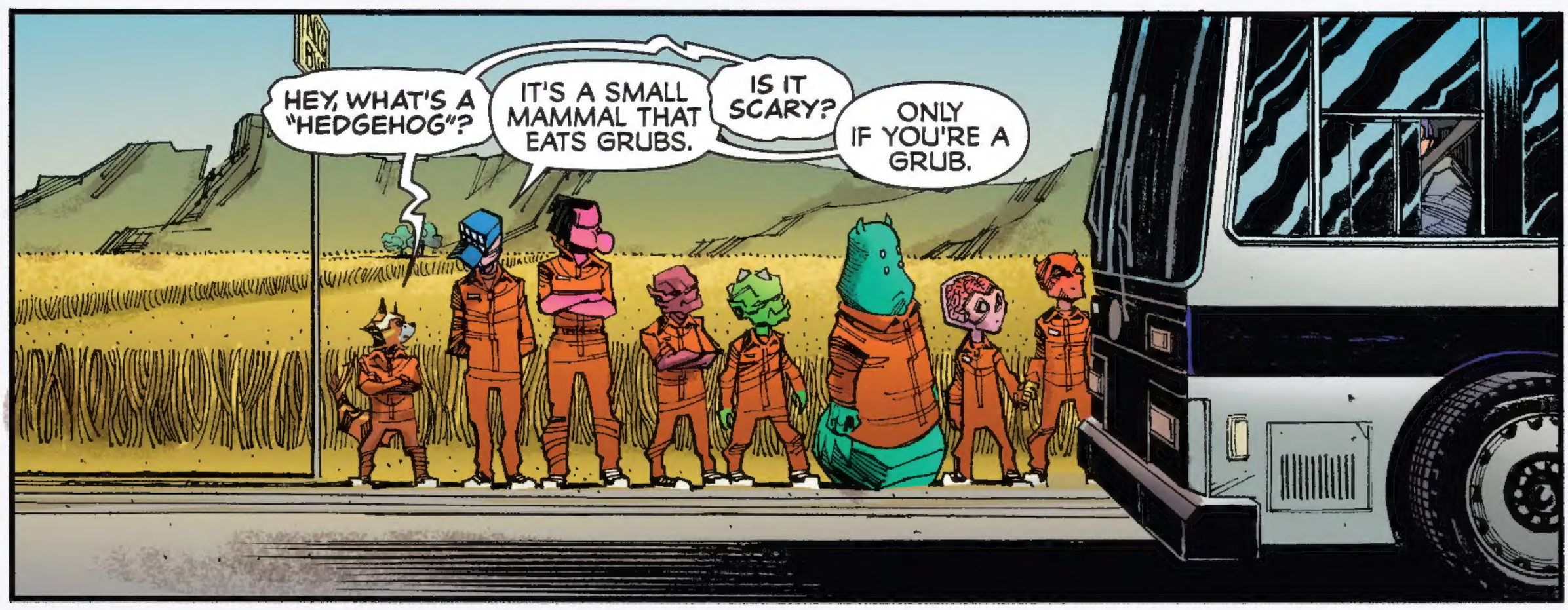
...THANKS.

SEE YOU SOON.
SKREEEE.


OH, HEY. YOU ALL WANNA HELP ME LOOK FOR THIS MONEY OR YOU WANNA JUST STARE AT ME LIKE *I'M* THE JERK HERE?
WHAT WAS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. HE SHOWED UP AND SAVED ME FROM THE GUARDS.
TEAM HALLEY

I SUPPOSE HE'S A GOOD GUY AND WE JUST NEED TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE?
TEAM HALLEY

OH, NO. HE'S A MONSTER AND TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HOW EXCITED HE WAS TO HUNT AND SKIN ME LATER.
HE JUST WANTS TO MAKE IT "SPORTING." WHATEVER THE FLARK THAT MEANS.
WE NEED TO GET OFF THIS PLANET.

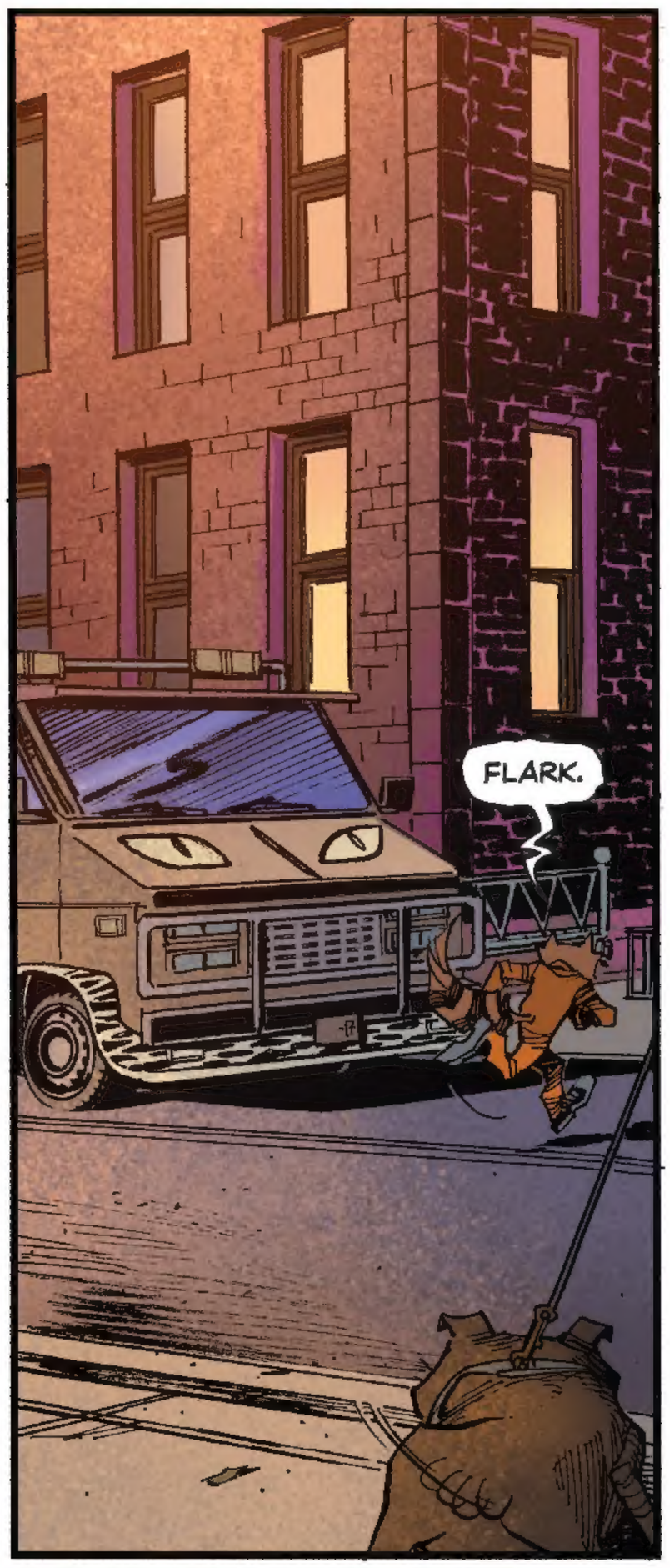

HEY, WHAT'S A "HEDGEHOG"?
IT'S A SMALL MAMMAL THAT EATS GRUBS.
IS IT SCARY?
ONLY IF YOU'RE A GRUB.

"SYCORAX CAN GET US OFF THE PLANET, BUT WE NEED TO GO GET SOME OF OUR FRIENDS FIRST. WE'LL MEET BACK UP IN THE CENTRAL PARK MEADOW.
F 77 LIMITED
77 LIMITED

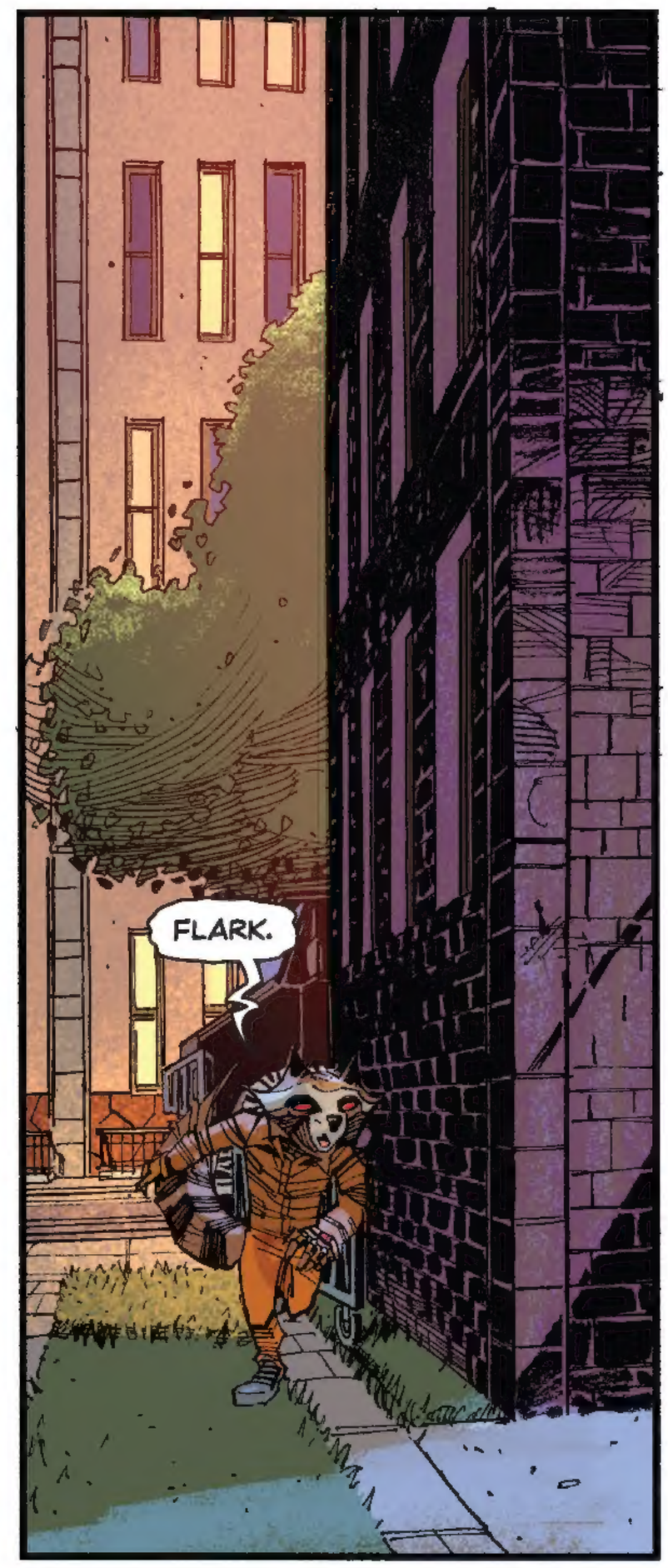
"SOMEONE NEEDS TO GO TO RA'CHAUN'S AND GET THE DEVICE SHE STASHED WITH HIM. WE ALREADY CALLED HIM AND TOLD HIM THE PLAN."

"I'LL GO. I WANTED TO SAY GOODBYE TO HIM BEFORE I LEFT EARTH ANYWAY."
YOU MOTHER-FLARKER.

SNOOK
FLARK. YOU BETTER NOT HAVE KILLED HIM, KRAVEN.

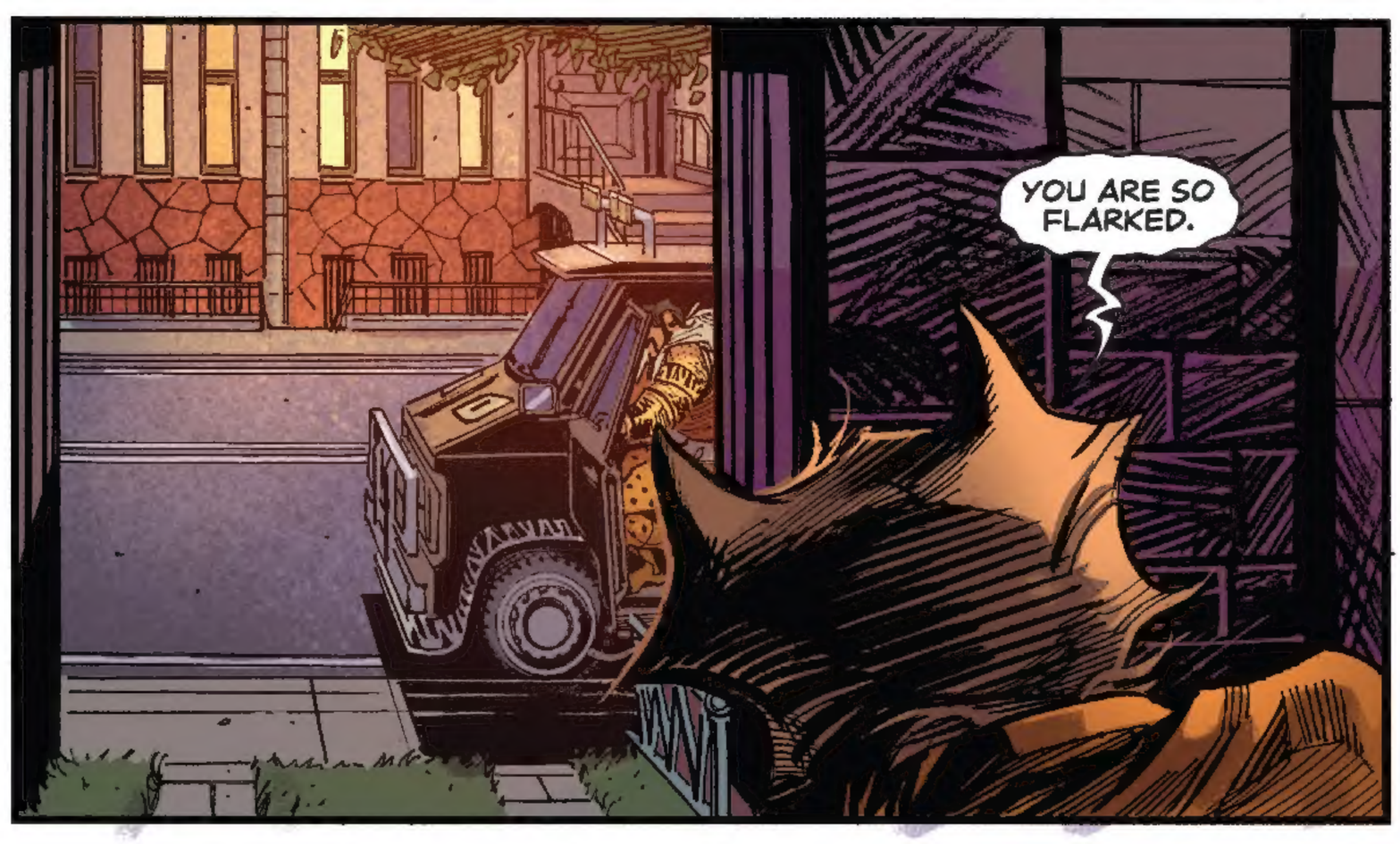

FLARK.

FLARK.


FLARK.

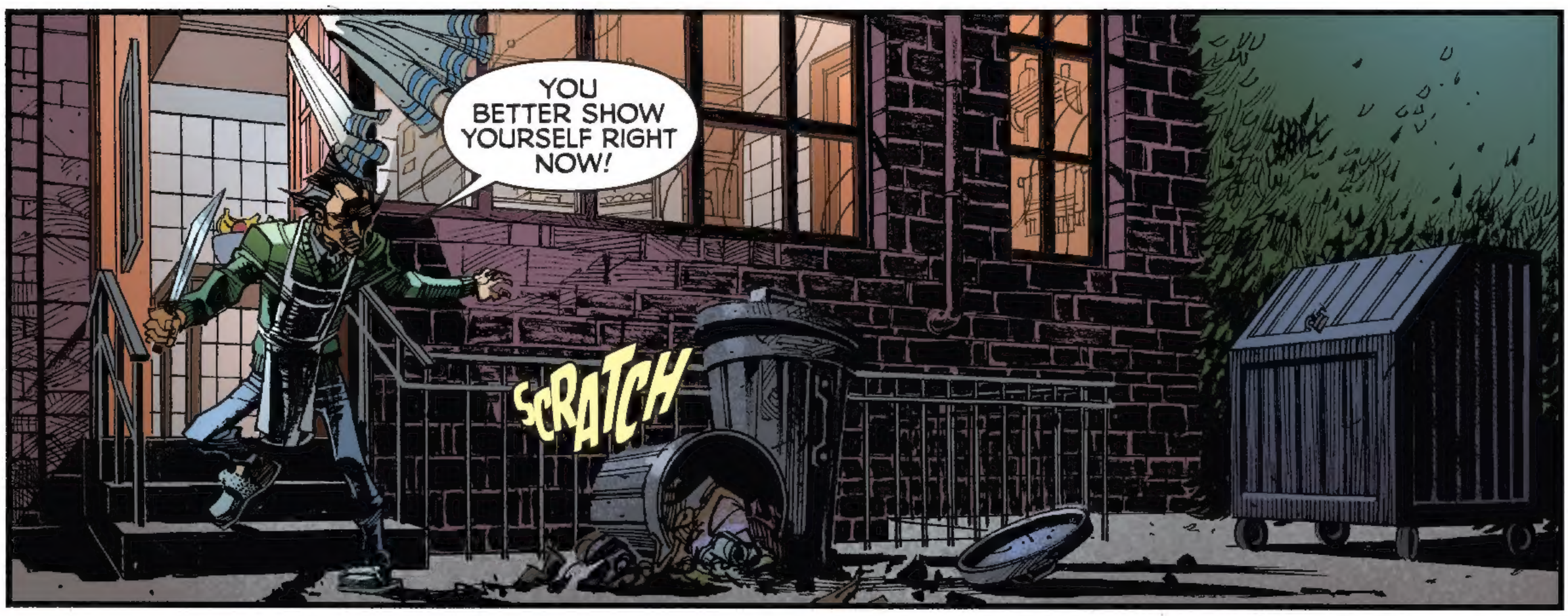
FLARK.

WHAT THE FLARK?


YOU ARE SO FLARKED.

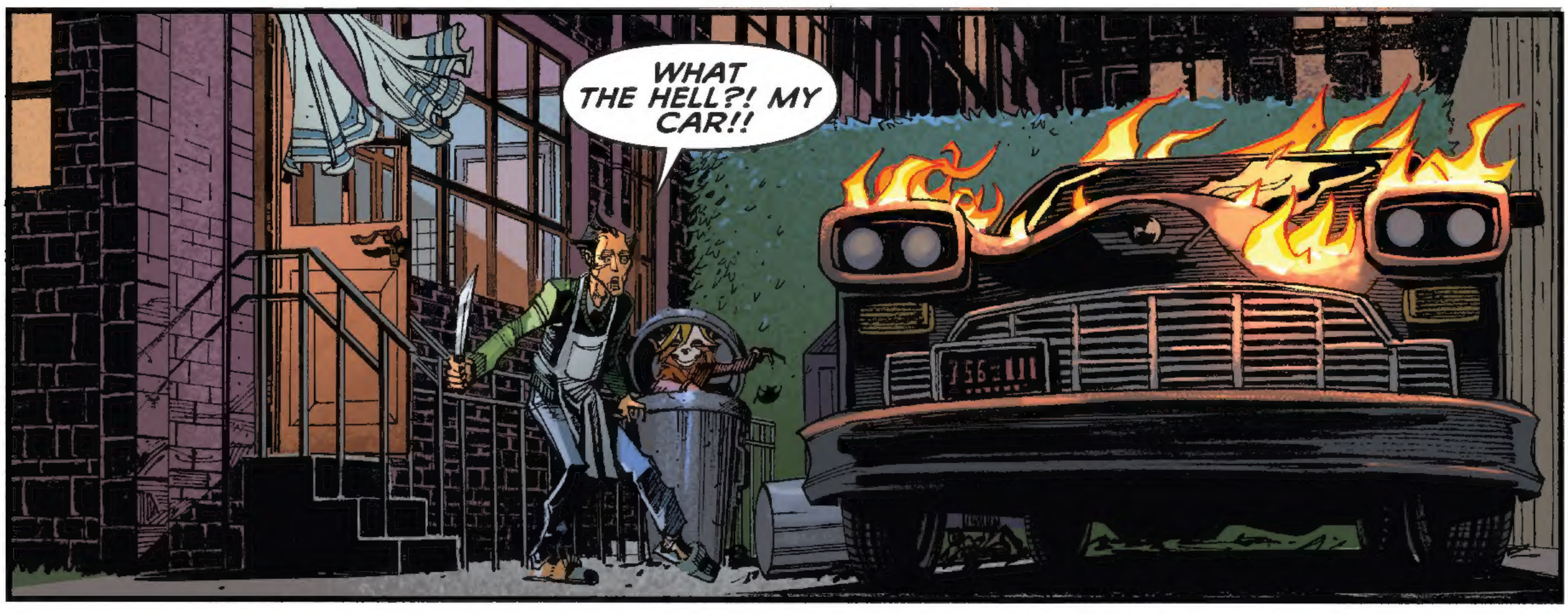
HAVE YOU SEEN DEATH STAR?
KLINK!SMASH!!

HELLO? WHO'S OUT THERE?!


YOU BETTER SHOW YOURSELF RIGHT NOW!
SCRATCH

CHIT CHIT.
GET OUTTA HERE, TRASH-MOUTH!

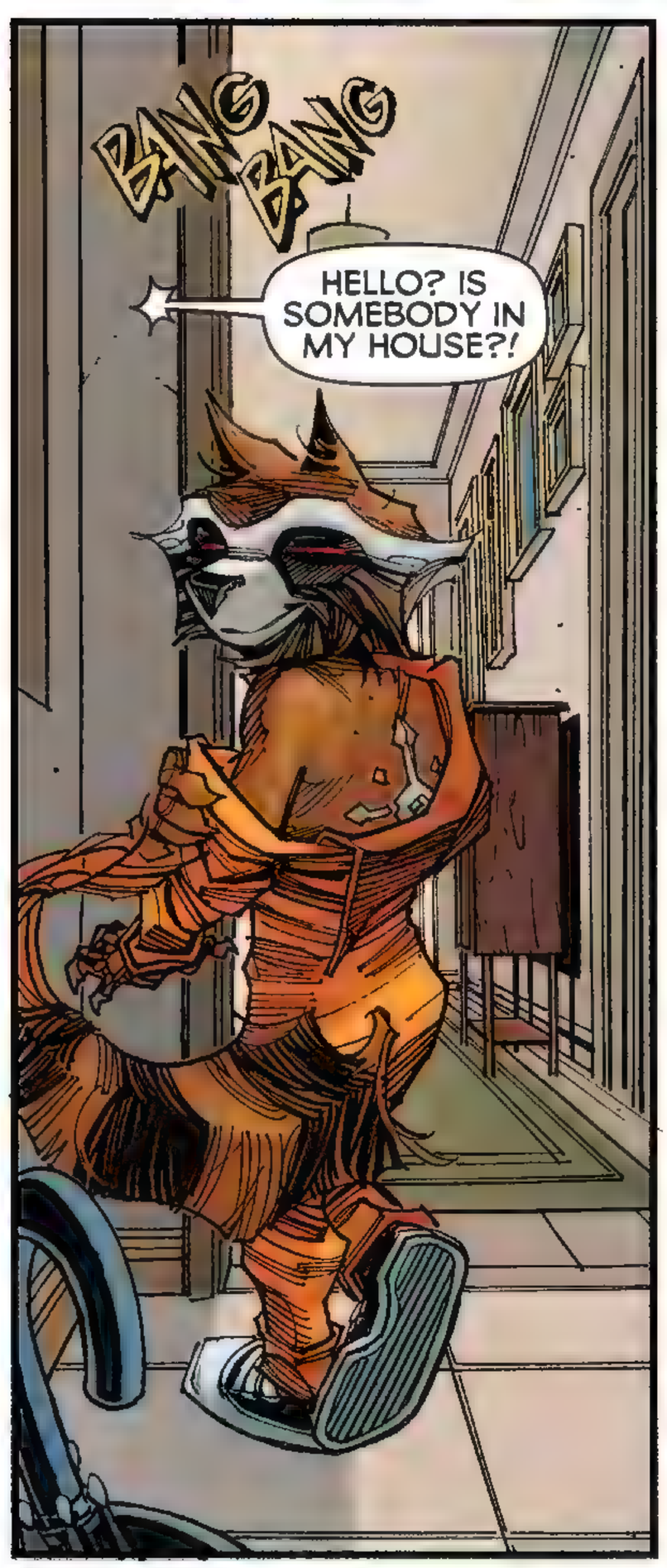
YOU KEEP COMING HERE, EATING MY GARBAGE, AND GETTING FATTER. SHOO!

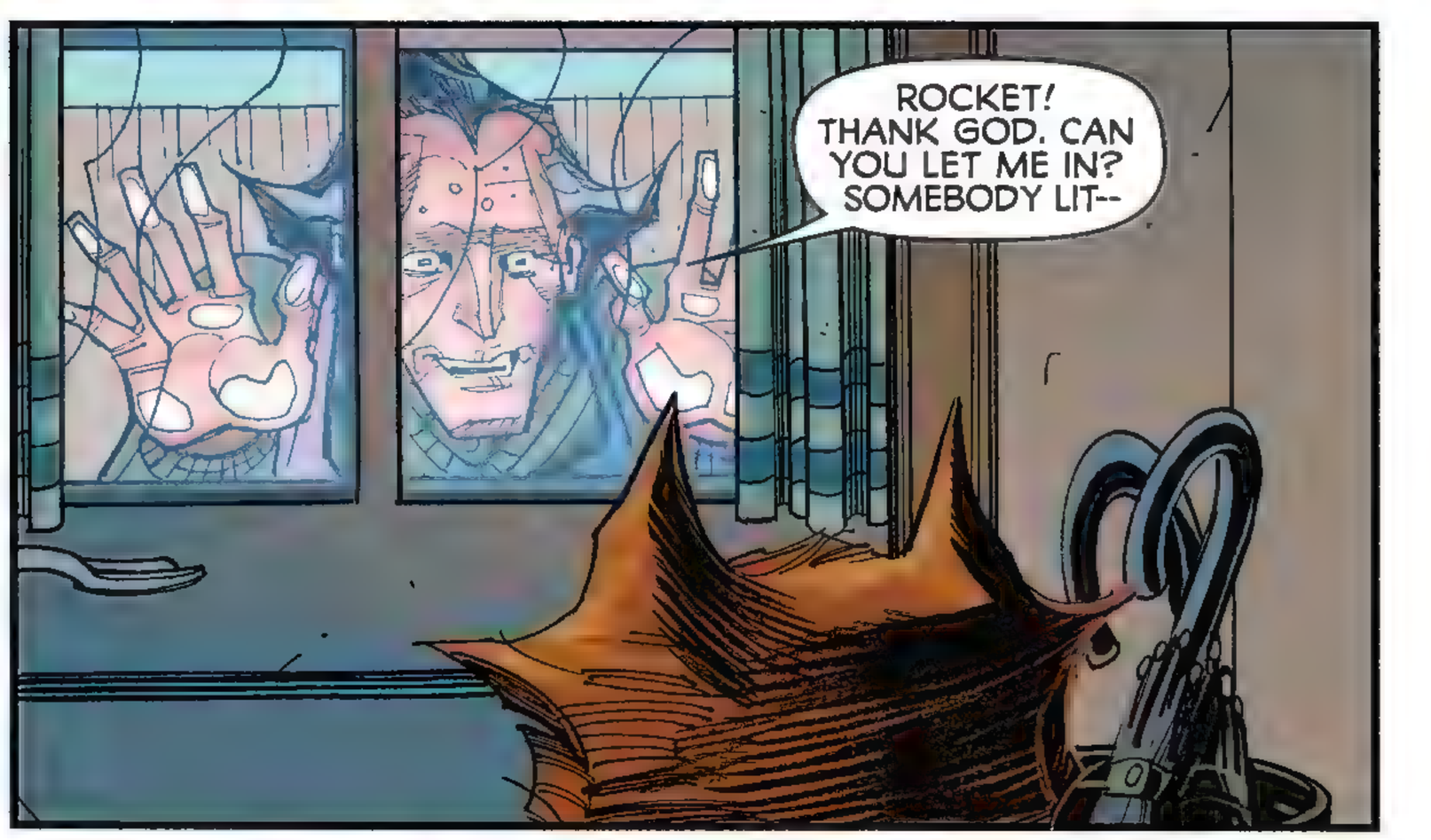

WHAT THE HELL?! MY CAR!!

I'M NOT FAT, $@&!*#%. I'M FLUFFY.

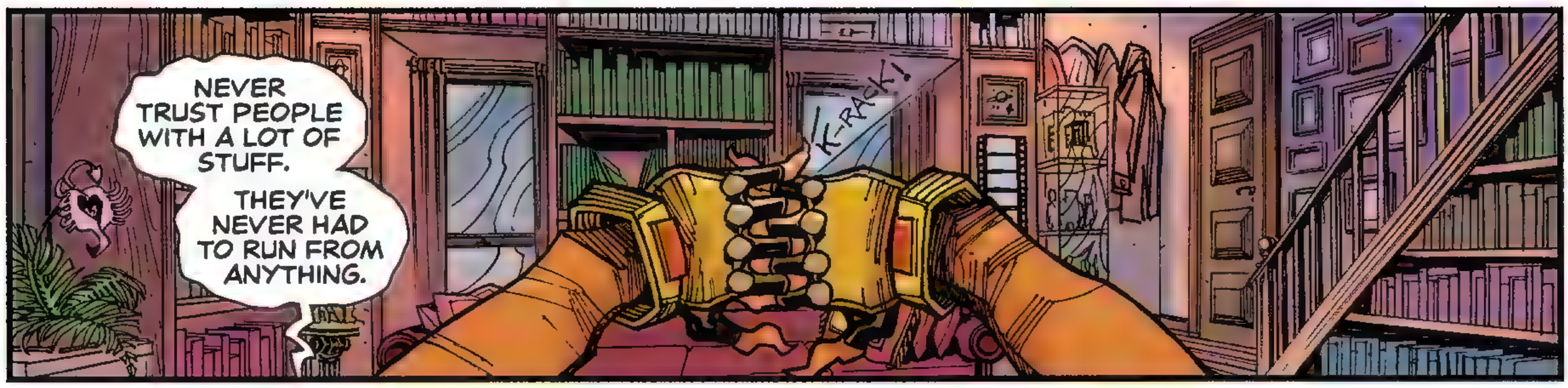
BAM

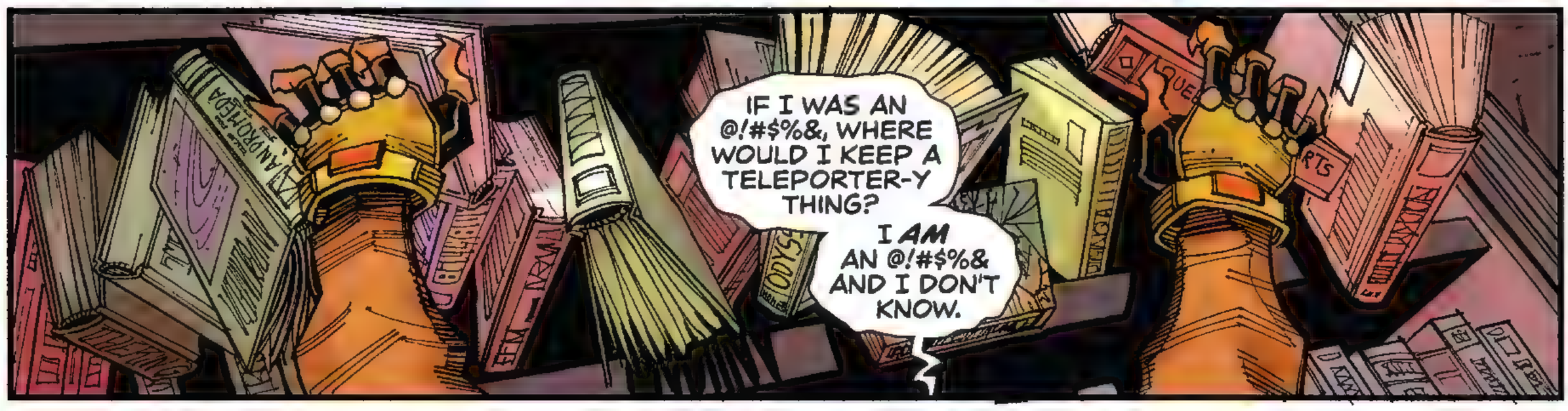
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GET TO WORK.
CLICK CLACK

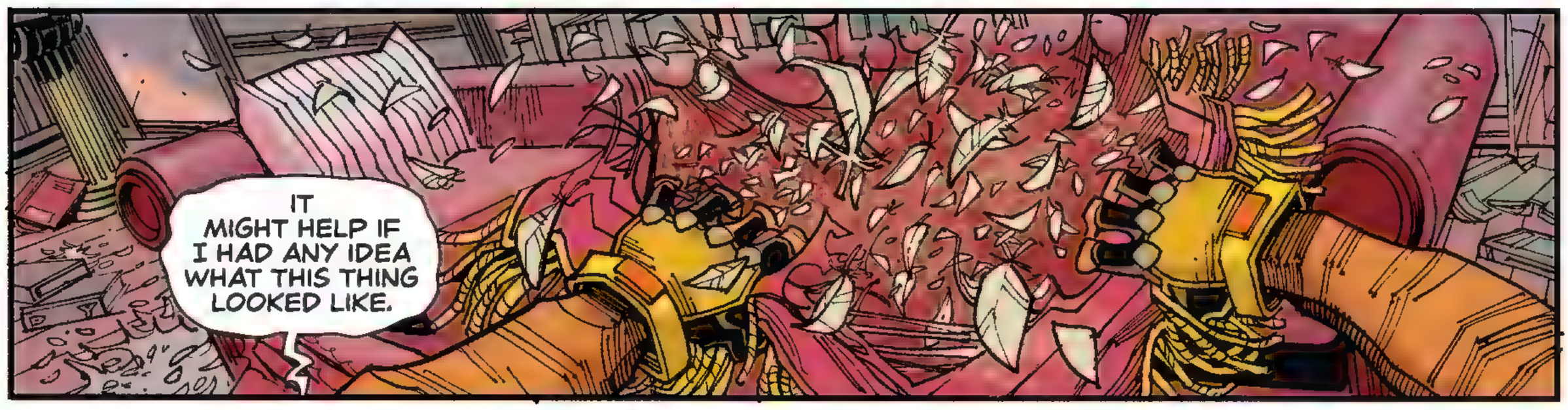

BANG BANG
HELLO? IS SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSE?!

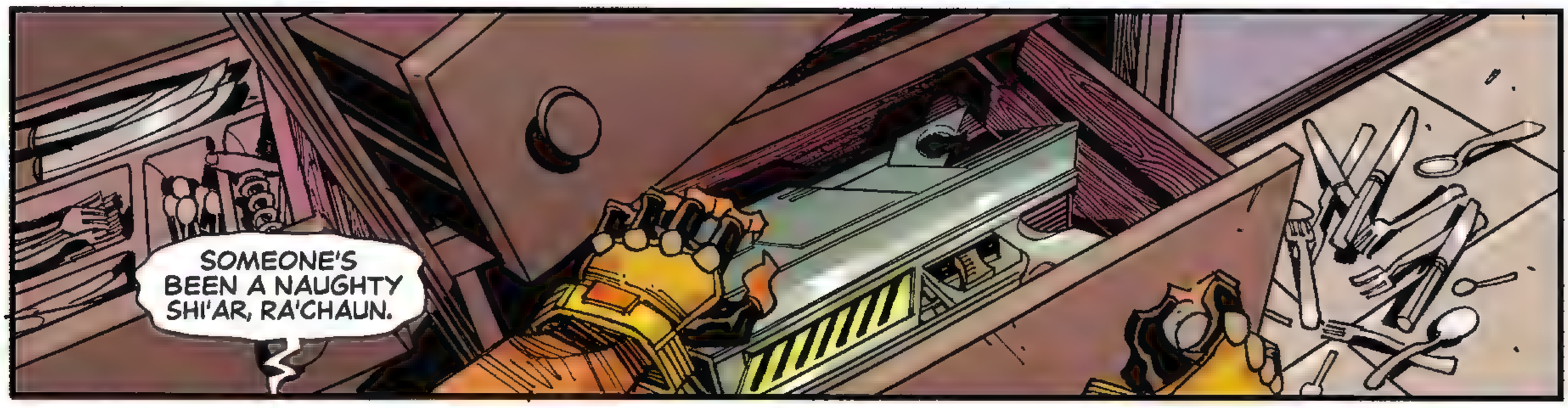

ROCKET! THANK GOD. CAN YOU LET ME IN? SOMEBODY LIT--

NAH.

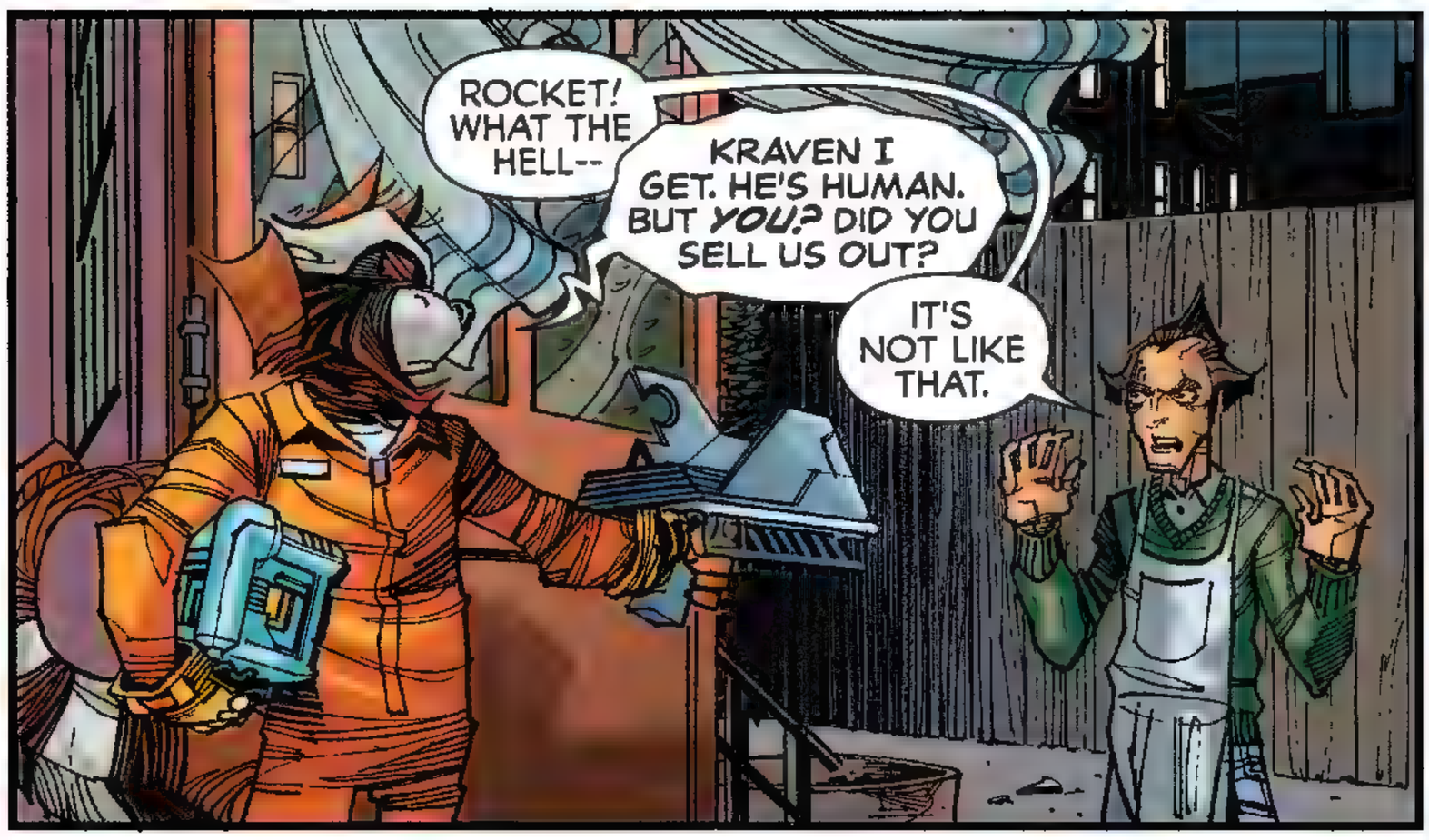

NEVER TRUST PEOPLE WITH A LOT OF STUFF.
THEY'VE NEVER HAD TO RUN FROM ANYTHING.
K-RACK!


IF I WAS AN @!#$%&, WHERE WOULD I KEEP A TELEPORTER-Y THING?
I AM AN @!#$%& AND I DON'T KNOW.

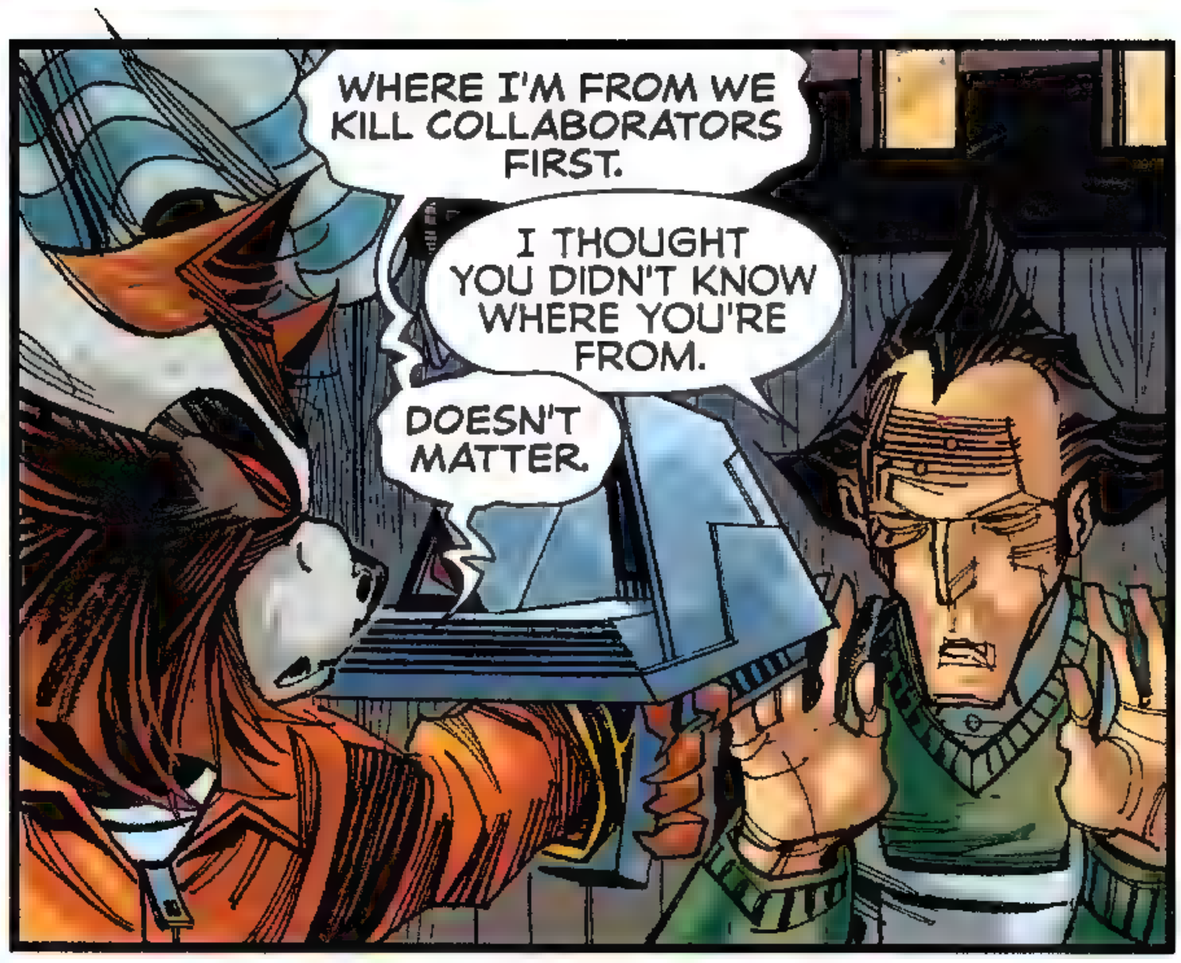

IT MIGHT HELP IF I HAD ANY IDEA WHAT THIS THING LOOKED LIKE.


SOMEONE'S BEEN A NAUGHTY SHI'AR, RA'CHAUN.

WHERE THE FLARK IS--
SYCORAX TELEPORTER DON'T TOUCH!
OH.


ROCKET! WHAT THE HELL--
KRAVEN I GET. HE'S HUMAN. BUT YOU? DID YOU SELL US OUT?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

IF I DIDN'T TURN OVER SOME NAMES TO THEM, THEY'D HAVE COME FOR ME.
IT WASN'T PERSONAL. THAT'S JUST HOW IT WORKS ON EARTH.
$%!& EARTH.


WHERE I'M FROM WE KILL COLLABORATORS FIRST.
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE FROM.
DOESN'T MATTER.

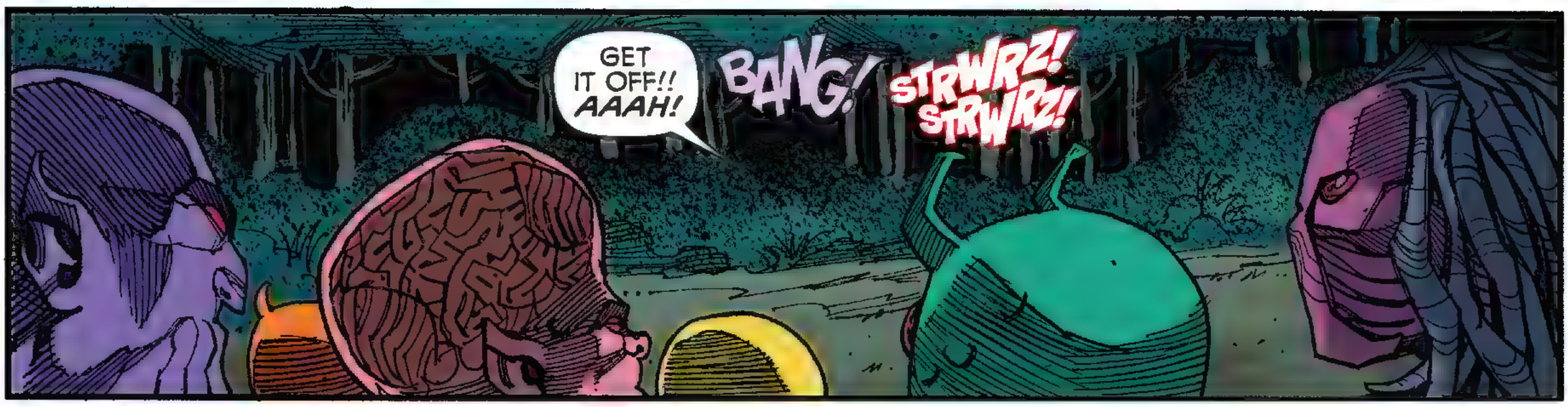
WE HAVE HISTORY, YOU AND ME. WE WERE FRIENDS. SO I'M NOT GOING TO SHOOT YOU--
THANK YOU. I ALWAYS SAID YOU WERE A GOOD GUY.

CHANGED MY MIND.
ARRGH!
SORRY I LIT YOUR HOUSE AND CAR ON FIRE. I'M KEEPING THIS.
ROCKET--

"YOU BETTER HURRY!"

I JUST WANT THAT BIG ONE SO BAD.
KRAVEN SAID HE AIN'T GIVING OUT ANY POINTS UNTIL HE GETS HERE.
I JUST WANT TO SEE SOME BLOOD.

ME TOO.


GET IT OFF!! AAAH!
BANG!
STRWRZ! STRWRZ!

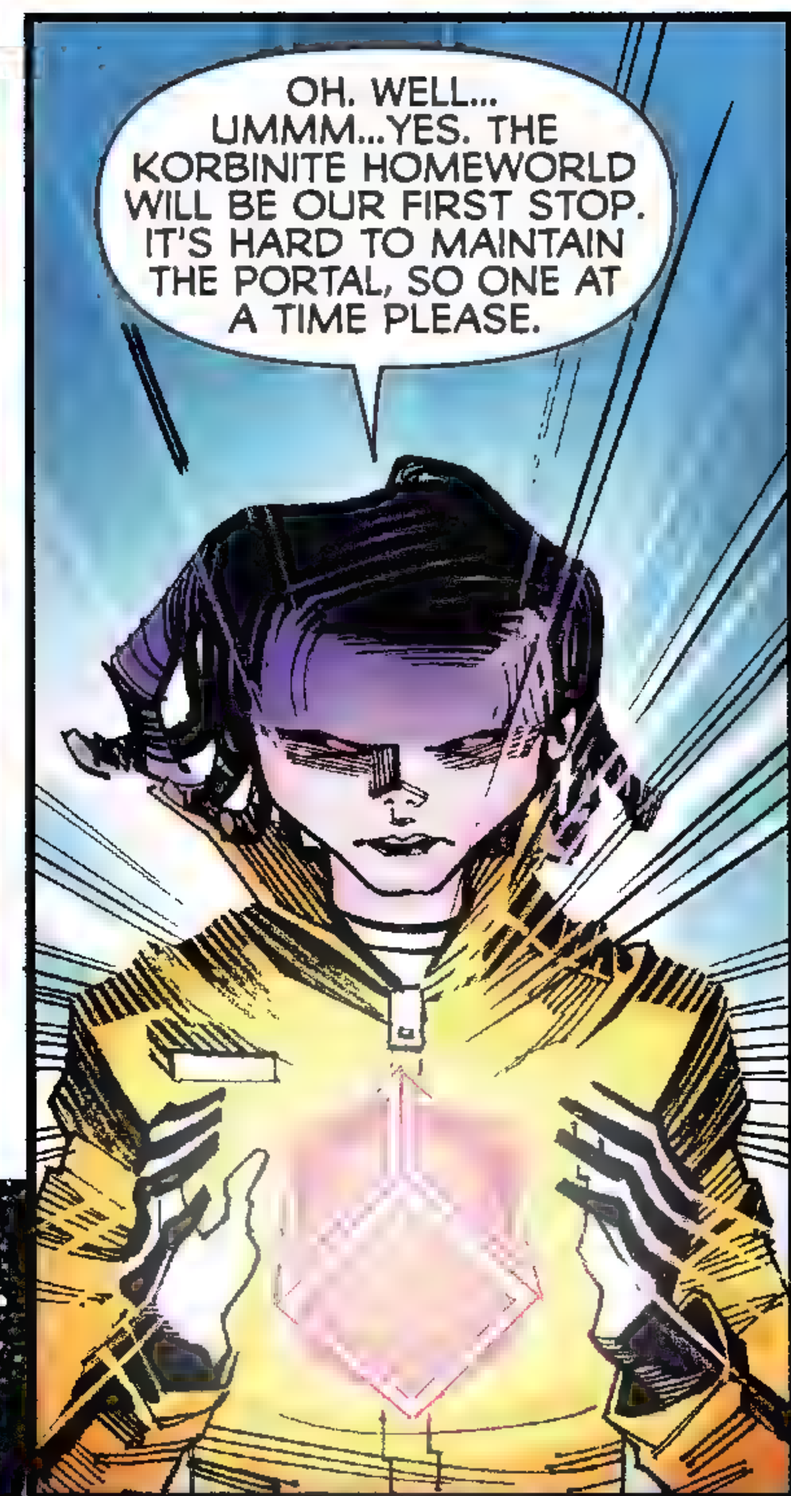
HEY! I GOT THAT THING YOU WANTED!

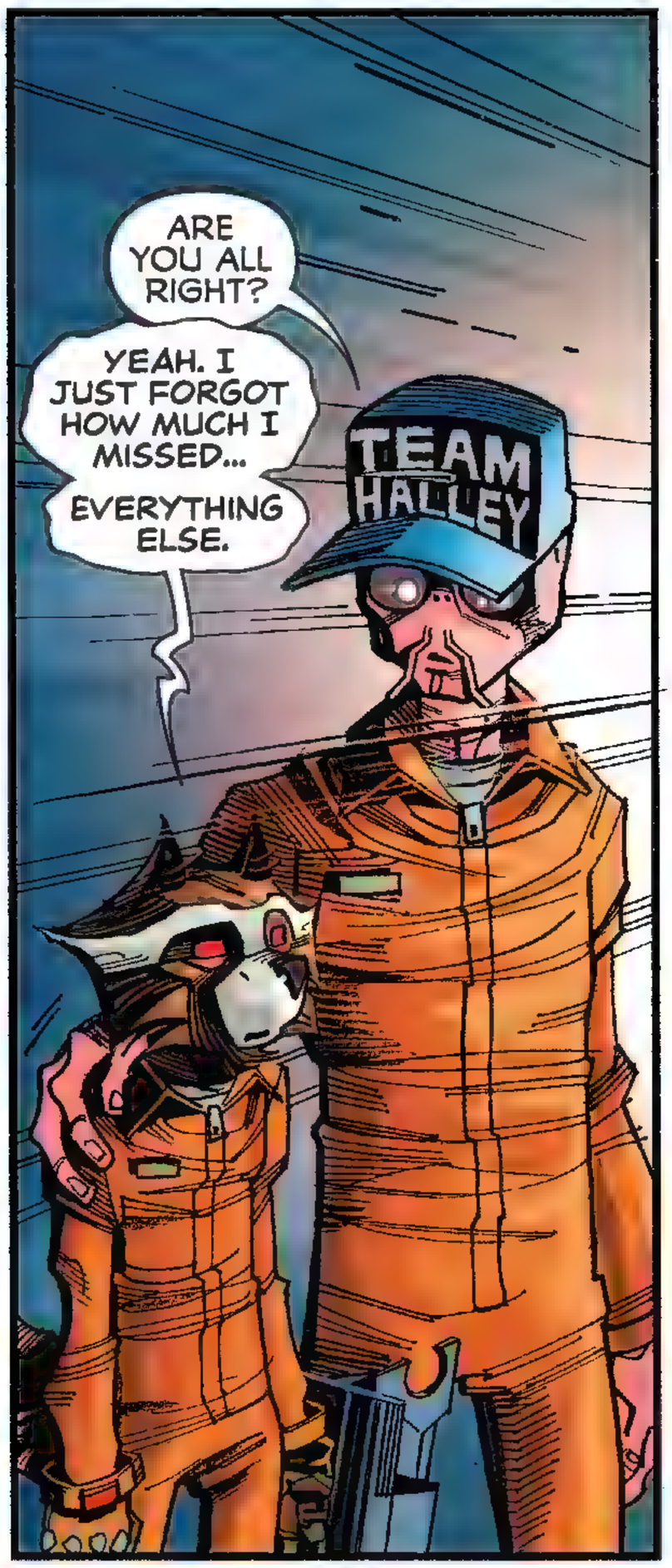
NEXT TIME YOU SEND ME TO FIND SOME WEIRD SCIENCE JUNK YOU MADE, LET ME KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE FIRST. THAT SUCKED.
TEAM HALLEY

HOW'S RA'CHAUN?!
HE SEEMED GOOD.
TEAM HALLEY

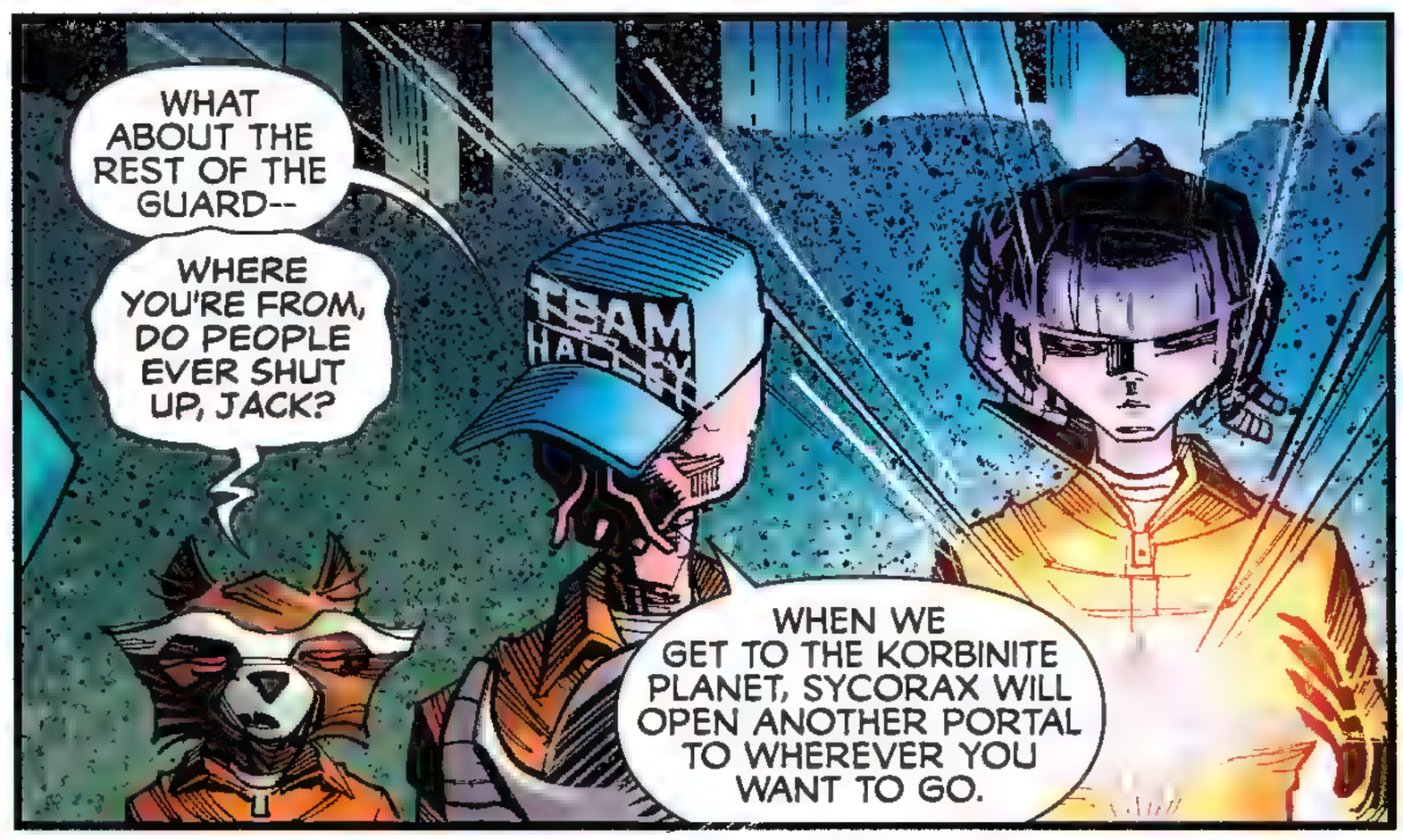
WHEN I WAS TRANSFORMED BY THE TERRIGEN MISTS, I BEGAN HAVING THESE DETAILED VISIONS, DREAMS MAYBE. I SAW MACHINES THAT ONLY I COULD CREATE AND USE.
THESE MACHINES COULD DO THINGS THAT NO KNOWN TECHNOLOGY COULD DO. I REALIZED THESE VISIONS WERE MY POWERS TELLING ME HOW--

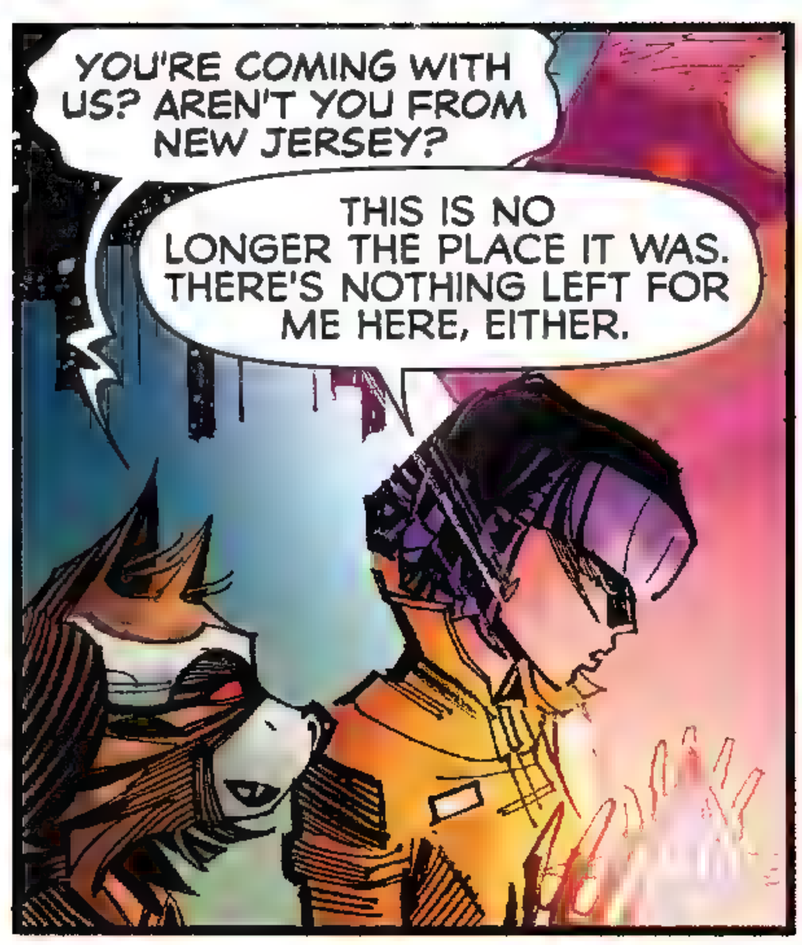
TEAM HALLEY
OKAY. NOBODY CARES.
CAN WE LEAVE?


OH. WELL... UMMM...YES. THE KORBINITE HOMEWORLD WILL BE OUR FIRST STOP. IT'S HARD TO MAINTAIN THE PORTAL, SO ONE AT A TIME PLEASE.

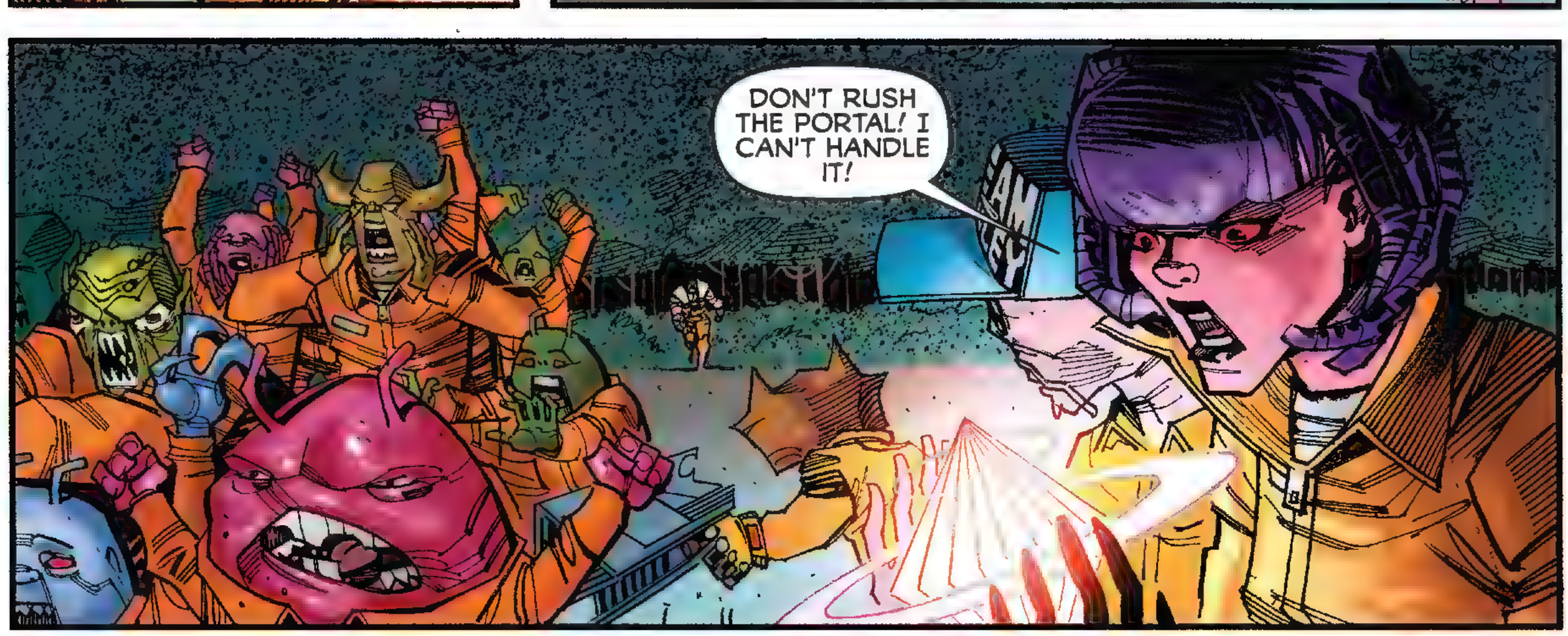

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
YEAH. I JUST FORGOT HOW MUCH I MISSED...
EVERYTHING ELSE.
TEAM HALLEY

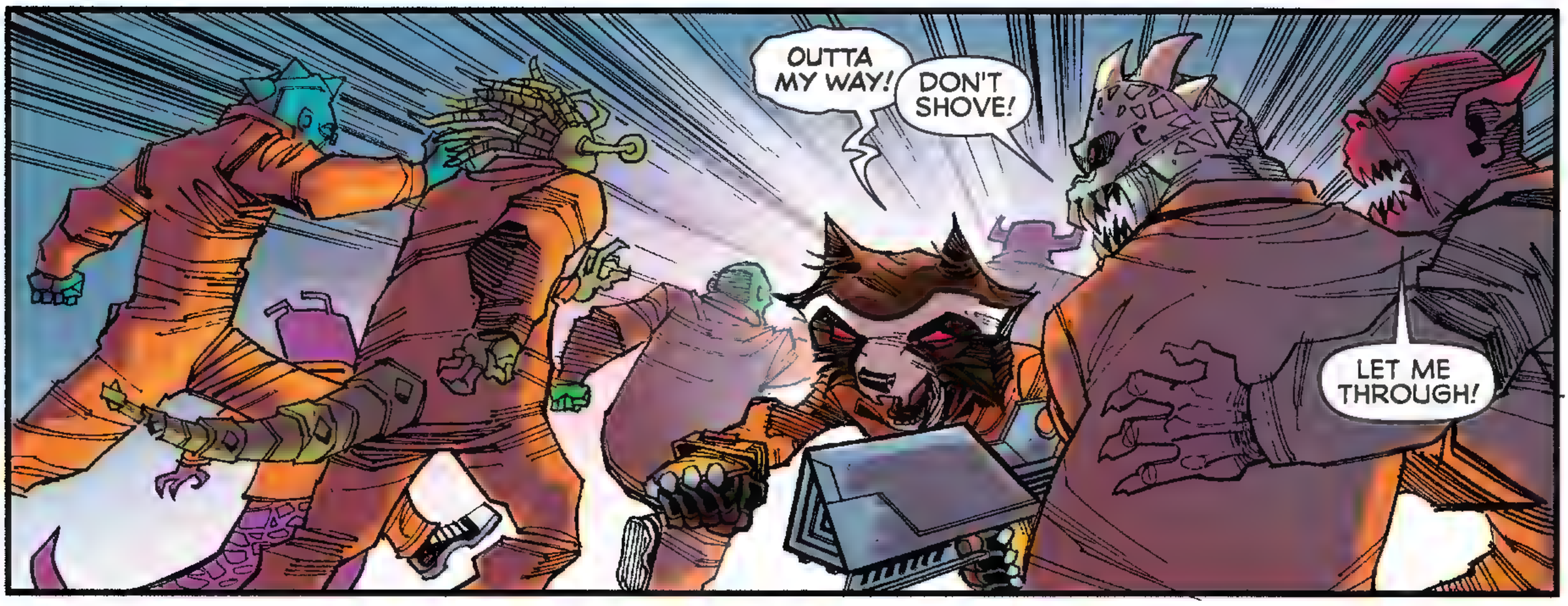
DID YOU GET A CHANCE TO SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR FRIENDS?
I DON'T HAVE ANY. NOT HERE, AT LEAST.

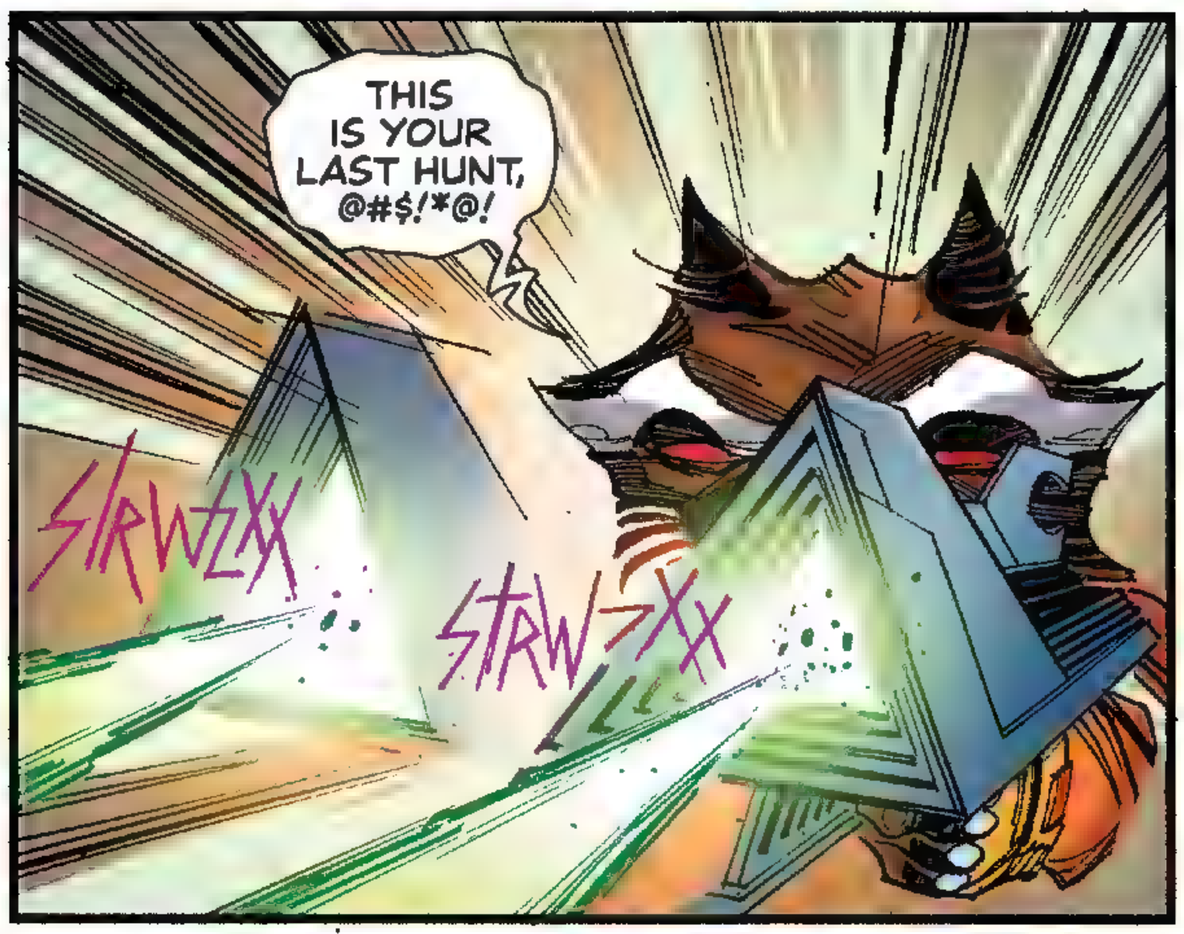

WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE GUARD--
WHERE YOU'RE FROM, DO PEOPLE EVER SHUT UP, JACK?
TEAM HALLEY
WHEN WE GET TO THE KORBINITE PLANET, SYCORAX WILL OPEN ANOTHER PORTAL TO WHEREVER YOU WANT TO GO.

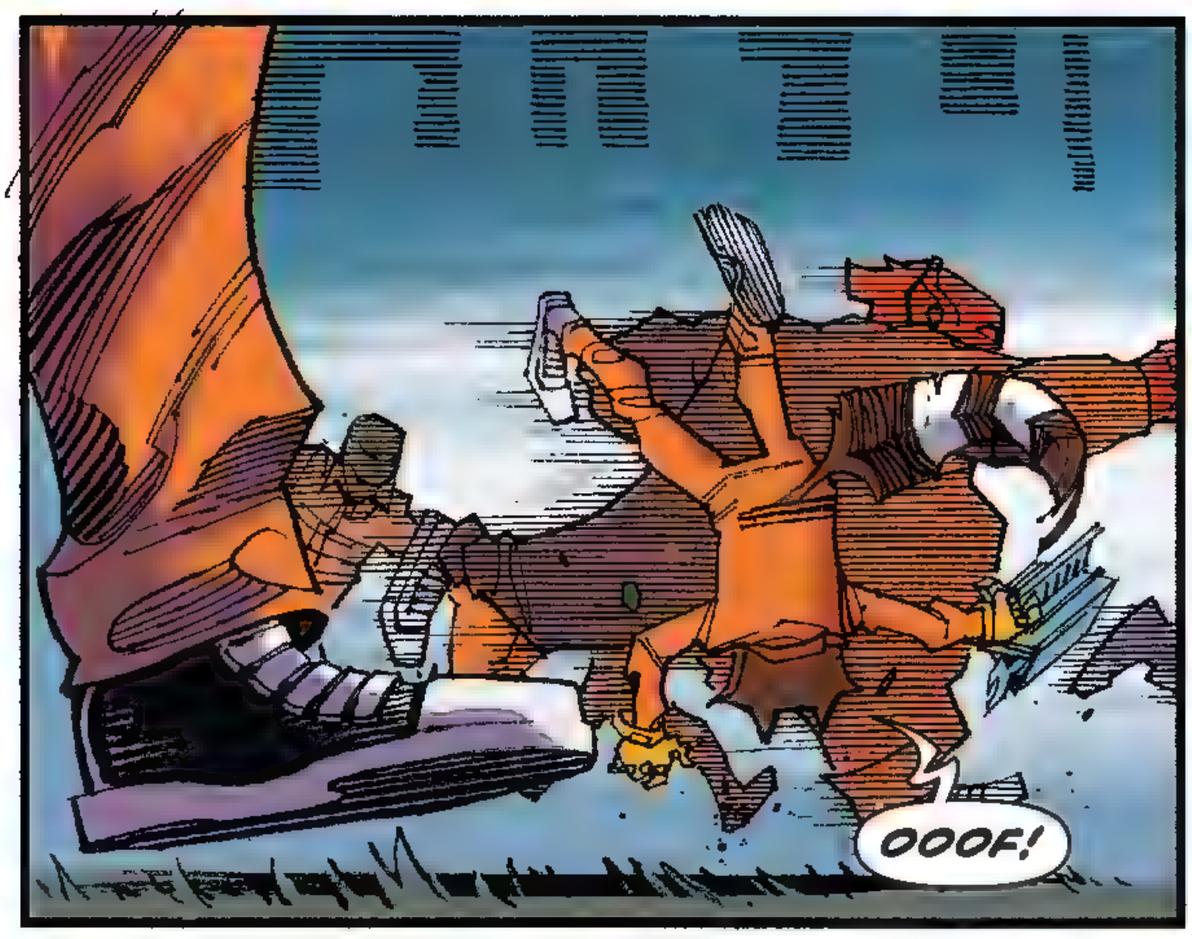

YOU'RE COMING WITH US? AREN'T YOU FROM NEW JERSEY?
THIS IS NO LONGER THE PLACE IT WAS. THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME HERE, EITHER.

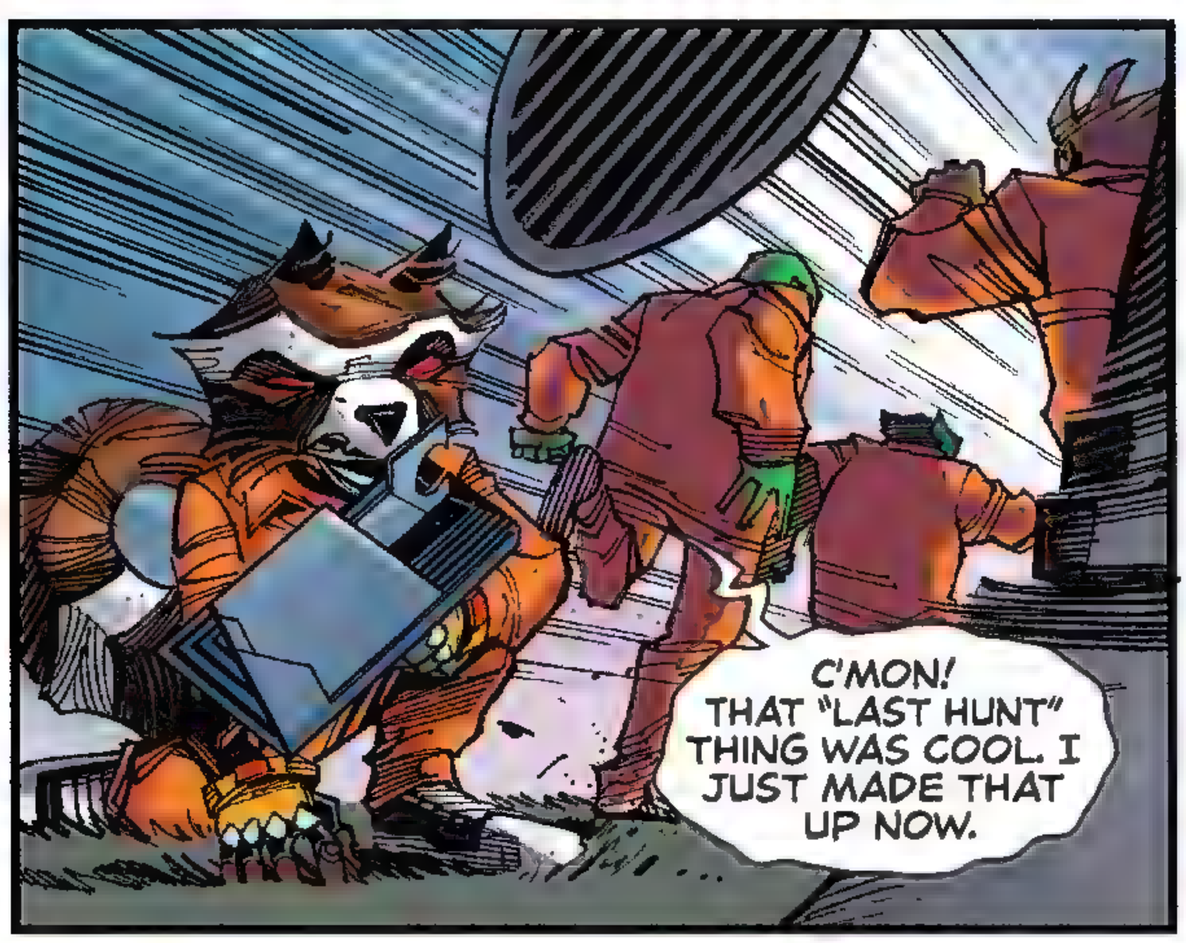
TEAM HALLEY
OH MY GOD!

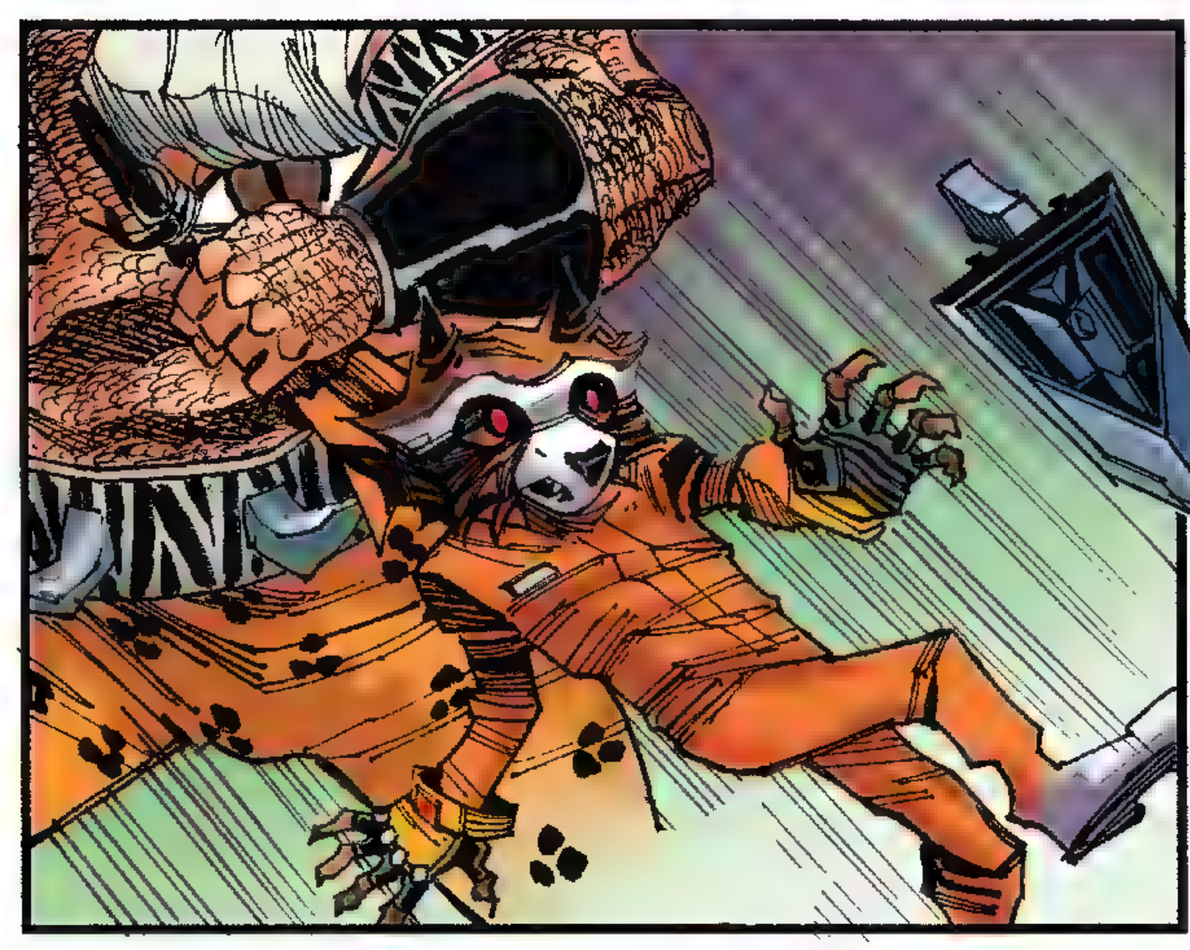

DON'T RUSH THE PORTAL! I CAN'T HANDLE IT!


OUTTA MY WAY!
DON'T SHOVE!
LET ME THROUGH!

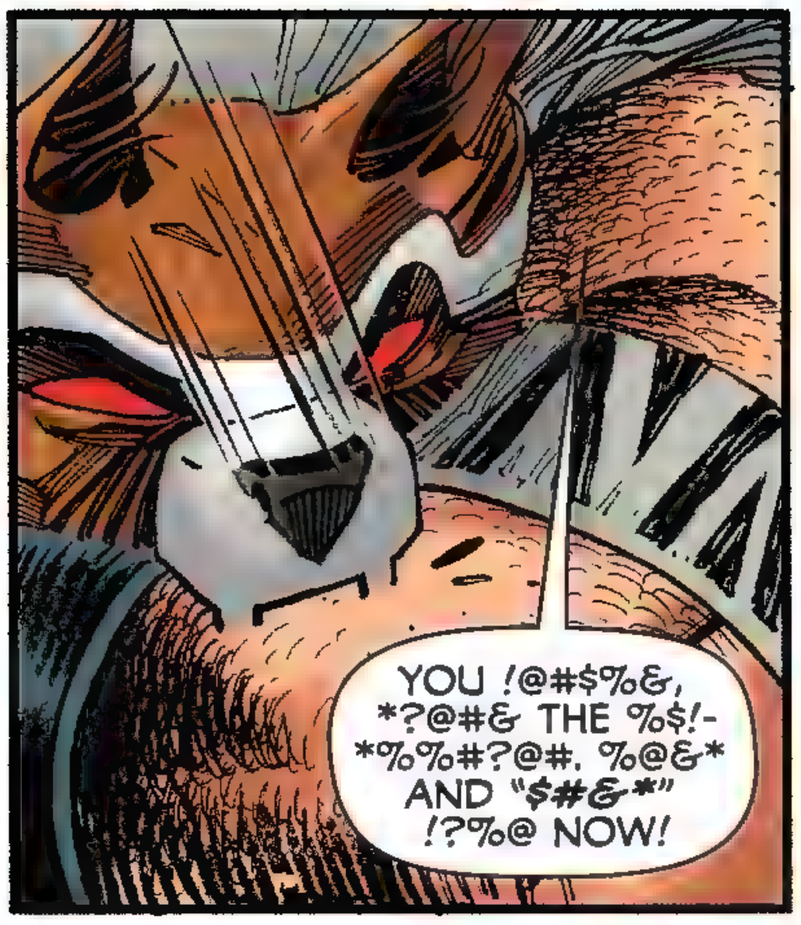

THIS IS YOUR LAST HUNT, @#$!*@!
SIRWZXX
STRW>XX


OOOF!


C'MON! THAT "LAST HUNT" THING WAS COOL. I JUST MADE THAT UP NOW.



NOW ISN'T THIS BETTER, RACCOON? YOU AND I--

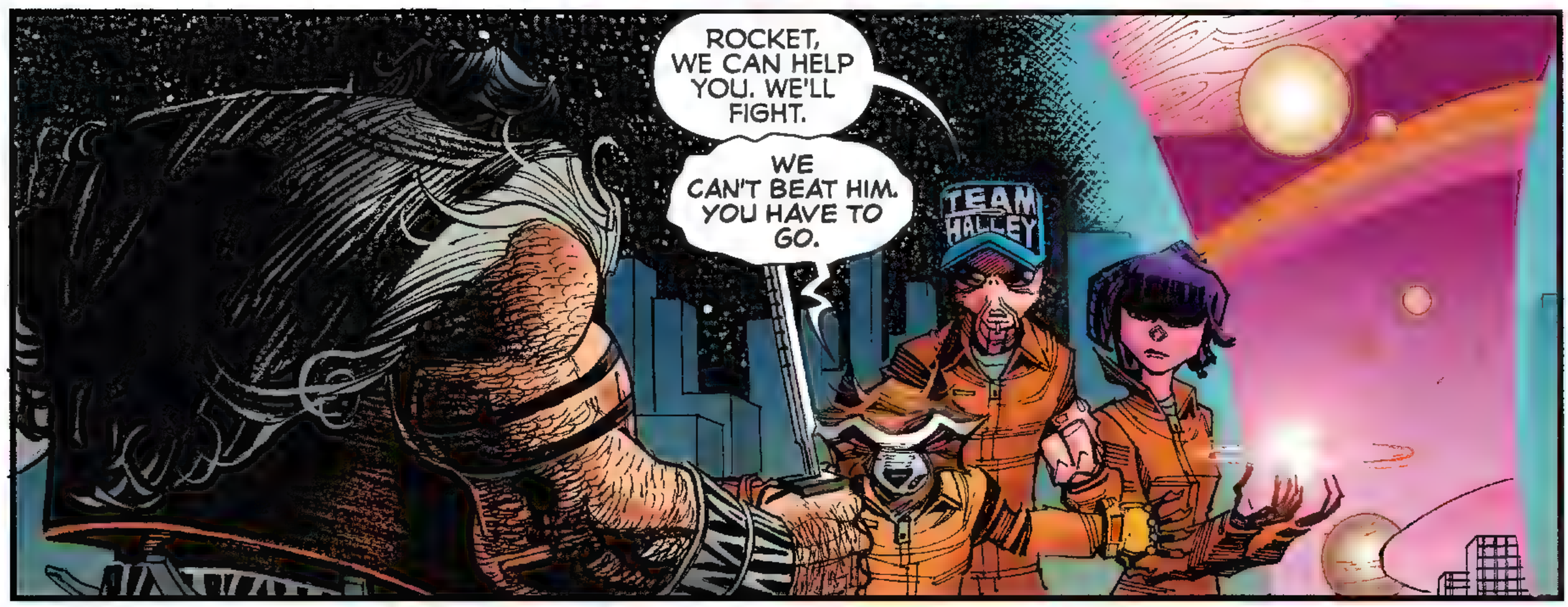

YOU !@#$%&, *?@#& THE %$!- *%%#?@#. %@&* AND "$#&*" !?%@ NOW!

ROCKET, C'MON!

SO COWARDLY, HELPING EVERYONE RUN AWAY LIKE THIS. BUT NOW YOU TWO GET THE HONOR OF BEING MY FINAL TROPHIES IN THE TOURNAMENT.
HEY, CREEP. YOUR FIGHT'S WITH ME.

LET THEM GO.
WHY WOULD I?
I STEP THROUGH THAT PORTAL OR THEY DO. AND I DON'T THINK YOU WANNA CHASE ME ON A ONE-WAY TRIP TO SPACE.
TEAM HALLEY

I KNOW YOU WANT THIS PELT. LET THEM GO.


ROCKET, WE CAN HELP YOU. WE'LL FIGHT.
WE CAN'T BEAT HIM. YOU HAVE TO GO.
TEAM HALLEY

IF I GO THROUGH THE PORTAL, IT WILL SHUT, AND I CAN'T RE-OPEN IT. YOU'LL BE *STUCK* HERE.

PLEASE JUST GO.

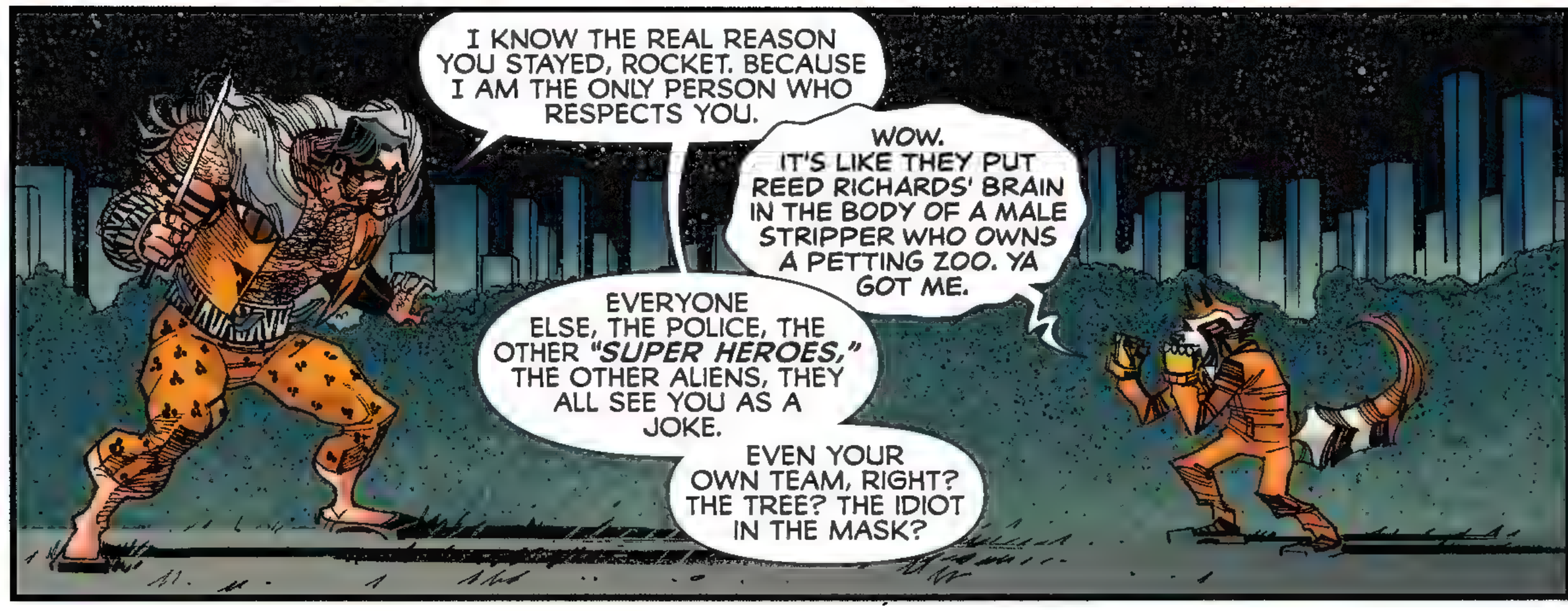
THANK YOU, ROCKET. I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU... *AS MY FRIEND!*

ARE THEY GONE? IT'S CLOSED?

YES.

THEY WERE REALLY ANNOYING, RIGHT?
"I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU!"
CALM DOWN, KID. I BARELY KNEW YOU.

NOW THAT THE NERDS ARE GONE, LET'S MURDER EACH OTHER.
KRACKL!


I KNOW THE REAL REASON YOU STAYED, ROCKET. BECAUSE I AM THE ONLY PERSON WHO RESPECTS YOU.
WOW. IT'S LIKE THEY PUT REED RICHARDS' BRAIN IN THE BODY OF A MALE STRIPPER WHO OWNS A PETTING ZOO. YA GOT ME.
EVERYONE ELSE, THE POLICE, THE OTHER *"SUPER HEROES,"* THE OTHER ALIENS, THEY ALL SEE YOU AS A JOKE.
EVEN YOUR OWN TEAM, RIGHT? THE TREE? THE IDIOT IN THE MASK?

JEEZ. EVERYONE HERE KNEW HE WAS AN IDIOT, TOO?
BUT I SAW THE REAL YOU RIGHT AWAY. A FIERCE WARRIOR. A MASTER STRATEGIST. THERE'S NOBODY ELSE LIKE YOU OUT THERE. IS THERE?

ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT. YOU WIN.
WHAT?!
I COULDN'T BEAT YOU ANYWAY.

NO! YOU MISUNDERSTAND. I RESPECT YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE A FIGHTER. GET UP!
I JUST NEEDED TO KNOW THAT I HAD SOME WORTH, SOMEWHERE. I JUST WANTED SOMEBODY TO RESPECT ME. THANK YOU. I'M READY NOW.

MAKE IT QUICK.
YOU DISAPPOINT ME, RACCOON.
JOIN THE CLUB.

THANKS FOR TEACHING ME ABOUT THOSE FLASHBANGS! THEY'RE NEAT.

BANG!

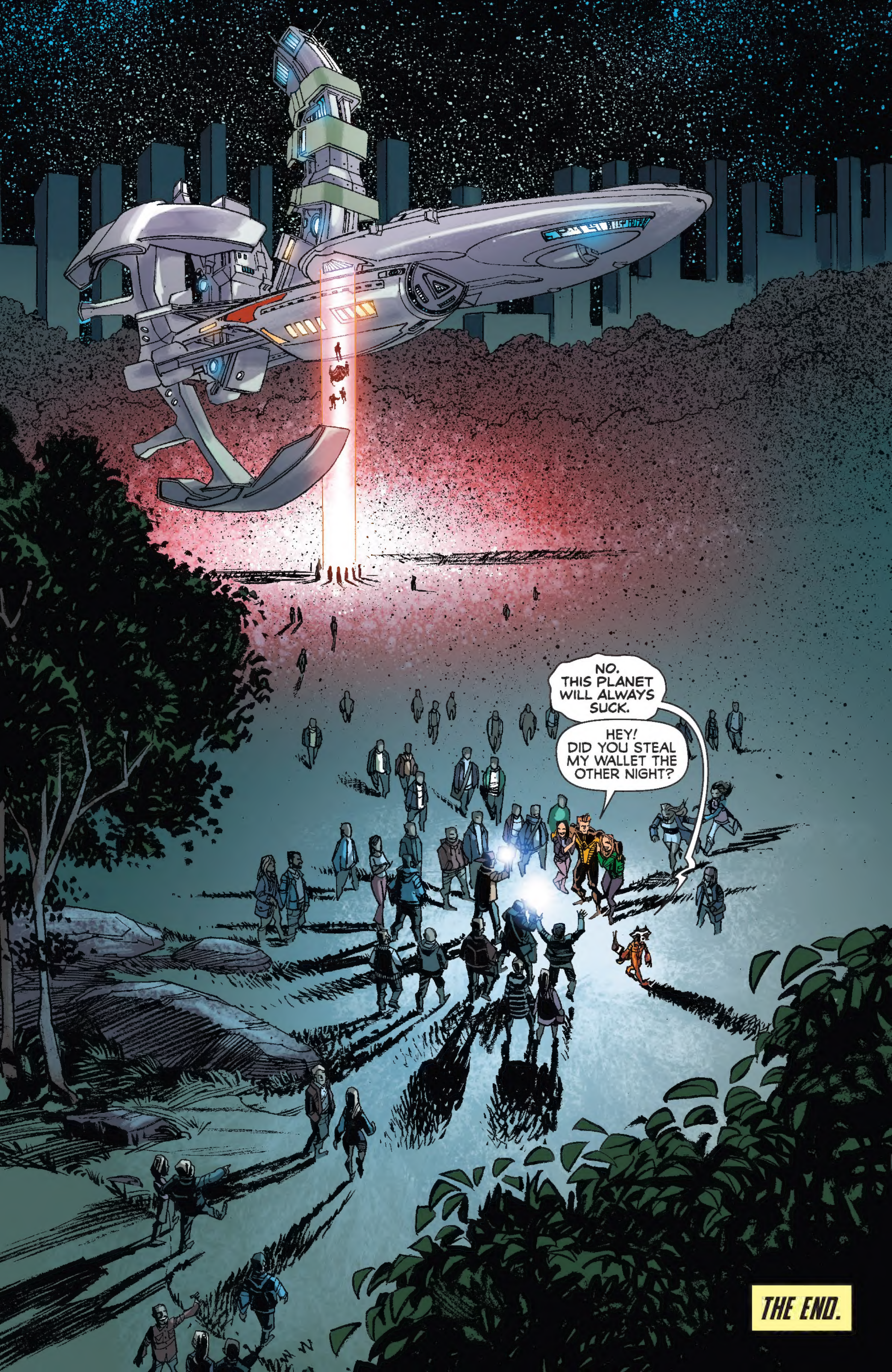
C'MON, MAN. DID YOU REALLY THINK I WAS GOING TO LET YOU MAKE MITTENS OUT OF ME?
I'M THE GUY WHO DOESN'T MIND BLOWING SOME-ONE'S #$%& OFF WITH A GRENADE. I'LL ALWAYS WIN.

YOU WANNA BE PUT OUT OF YOUR MISERY OR YOU WANNA WAIT FOR THE AVENGERS TO *FINALLY* SHOW UP AND LOCK YOU IN A CAGE SOMEWHERE?
LET HIM GO, YA EVIL MANATEE!

I SWEAR TO GLORB, IF ANY OF YOU THROW GARBAGE AT ME...BLAM! MURDER YOU!
THAT'S A REAL DUMB CATCH-PHRASE.
NOBODY CARES WHAT YOU THINK!

WHERE THE FLARK ARE THE AVENGERS?! DID THEY GO ON VACATION?!
WILL WE DO?

NOT REALLY, NO.
WELL, THE INHUMANS ARE ALL YOU'RE GETTING, BUDDY.
DON'T CROUCH DOWN TO TALK TO ME. IT'S PATRONIZING.
I KNOW WHAT YOU DID TODAY. YOU WERE THE HERO.
EASY TO BE A HERO HERE WHEN THE OTHER OPTION IS TO DO NOTHING WHILE PEOPLE ARE KILLED.
YOU DIDN'T SHOOT HIM JUST NOW.
IT'S ACTUALLY OUT OF AMMO. I WAS STALLING.
NO. THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT.
THE HUMAN TORCH SAVED EVERYONE!
JOHNNY! YOU'RE AMAZING.
YOU SURE THAT BIG UGLY SHIP OF YOURS CAN'T GET ME INTO SPACE?
NO, SORRY. IT DOESN'T LEAVE EARTH. BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL ME, BUDDY. I KNOW YOU'RE STARTING TO LIKE IT HERE.


NO. THIS PLANET WILL ALWAYS SUCK.
HEY! DID YOU STEAL MY WALLET THE OTHER NIGHT?
THE END.

ROCKET RACCOON

That'll do it, ROCKET readers! Check out GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #19 and STAR-LORD #6—on sale now!—to learn Rocket's ultimate fate, but the tale of the urban battle between Marvel's top characters in animal fur has come to an end...for now! Come back for Rocket and Kraven's final, deadly, deadly rematch in SERGEI IN SPACE! A comic book that I can, with no authority, claim we'll make at some point in the future!

Let's get to your letters!

Hey! As an avid comic reader and a huge fan of Rocket Raccoon, I just wanna say THANK YOU for his awesome new series! I've been reading his adventures since the great Skottie Young wrote his first ongoing series for the character, but this new series might be even better!! Love the gritty setting and the street-level combat! And as an aspiring artist, Jorge Coelho's stuff is FANTASTIC. Rocket may never have looked this good. This has become one of my favorite series, and I'll be reading it as long as it lasts!!

Joshua

Glad to hear you liked the new direction, Joshua! Jorge is AMAZING, isn't he? You should check out the HAUNTED MANSION comic he worked on last year with Joshua Williamson writing. Another feast for the eyes!

Okay, I'm here so I guess I couldn't keep my krutakin' trap shut! I'm just writing in because I am a huge Rocket fan and an even bigger Marvel one. I have been for a very long time. I think it really started when my friend and I went to see ***Guardians of the Galaxy!*** (I immediately chose Rocket as my favorite.) So I was pumped to see this series come out. I can't wait for issue #3. You guys keep up the good work--I have your back!

Sincerely,
Kid Marvel Lover!

Thanks for repping for us, Kid Marvel Lover! How excited are you for ***Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2***?? I bet it's going to be awesome, but it's going to be hard to top Rocket knocking over the Statue of Liberty, right?

Hey ROCKET team,
I was really drawn to the beautifully drawn orange Kraven cover and just had to pick it up. Believe it or not, Kraven is one of my fave Spidey villains! This ish did not disappoint--great action scenes between Kraven and our non-raccoon Rocket. Although Rocket came out with the short straw this ish, I look forward to seeing what stunts he can perform next with only his tighty-whities to protect him!

Jason Jaroslawsky
Calgary, Canada

To know Kraven is to love him, Jason. I think this book has very elegantly repositioned him as a villain, while still preserving the glorious Kra-Van that was established for him in the SQUIRREL GIRL and HOWARD THE DUCK crossover.

Hey Rocket!
I was wondering: when you were in space, how much time did you spend beating up bad guys and how much time did you just spend relaxing?

Joey Sitarski

P.S. Love the series.

Thanks, Joey! Rocket sent this answer:
"If you do it right, beating up bad guys ain't any different than relaxing. Because I'm so good looking, it's easy to forget I'm a master strategist. Take the time I set up Blastaar to take on the Phalanx. Now, there you got yourself a high beat-up-bad-guys quotient relative to a low get-yer-paws-dirty metric, if you get my meaning. The trick is to surround yerself with big idiots and Groot."

Then Rocket launched into an explanation of HOW he relaxed in space, but I don't think we can print that stuff under this rating.

First off, great job on this volume! Have a heartfelt "brava" all the way from Argentina. I'm something of Rocket Raccoon's number 1 fan over in this country, and having read all of his appearances, I have to say this volume is on par with the best of 'em. The more somber tone, above-average art, and detailed colors are a winning combo. Previous Rocket stories had been overly wacky and cartoony, but I like the slow pacing and detailed artwork we're being offered now. It's certainly different for Rocket. Did I mention I love the art? Coelho is up there with Mignola on making Rocket handsome! All right, enough praising...my only complaint is that I wish there was a little more continuity. I know the latest cosmic insult is "flark" but it would be great if he said "d'ast" here and there, too, as he used to do back in the day. Well, that's about it--keep up the good job.

Martín Coon

We're glad to have the praise, and the criticism, of Argentina's number 1 Rocket fan, Martín! One of the things I tried to do when I first started at Marvel was keep a running list of Rocket's swears, but that sadly fell by the wayside as I picked up more work. I have now added "d'ast"to that list and feel inspired to revisit Rocket's back catalogue for more gems—he's going to need them!

Three cheers for all the creators that made this book the salty fun it was: Matthew Rosenberg, Jorge Coelho, Antonio Fabela, Jeff Eckleberry, Marcio Menyz, Rain Beredo, David Nakayama and all the amazing cover artists, and many thanks to all of you readers and letter writers!

Rocket returns with all guns blazing at 110% this May in ALL-NEW GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY by Gerry Duggan and Aaron Kuder, in Christopher Hastings and Flaviano's I AM GROOT, and in his own sensational series ROCKET by Al Ewing and Adam Gorham! You won't want to miss the story of Rocket's life of SPACECRIME!

NEXT:

ROCKET

ON SALE NEXT MONTH!

ZONE